RIBON MASCOT COMICS 168

MARMALADE BOY 【6】

吉住 渉

Introducing the Cast of Characters

Suou Ginta

Miki's classmate
Likes Arimi

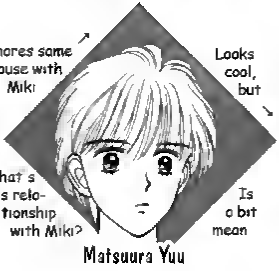
Koishikawa Miki

Akizuki Meiko

Close friend of Miki.
A person of solid character.

Suzuki Arimi

Yuu's old girlfriend



Matsuura Yuu

Tsuchiya Kei

A guy who's a co-worker at Miki's part-time job

Miki and Yuu come to live in the same house due to their parents announcing that they're swapping marriage partners. Miki gradually becomes attracted to Yuu, who sometimes displays sweetness despite being mean.

Yuu seems to have found his real father, but, in the end, he isn't able to find him. Miki revealed her feelings to a grieving Yuu. And the two of them share the same feelings towards each other!! (But it's a secret from their parents)

One day, it was decided that Yuu will appear in a commercial. On top of that, he co-stars with a popular model by the name of Sakuma Suzu! Yuu is liked by Suzu, and he tutors her, too.

Miki was a bit uneasy... But she made a promise to go on a trip alone with Yuu on summer break. She has to do her best and earn money!

Miki started working part-time at a cute ice cream shop. There, she meets a guy named Tsuchiya Kei, and...

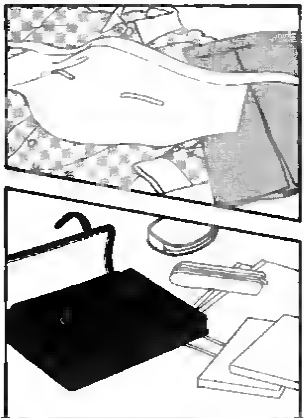
OHH.
TASTES GOOD!

IT'S REALLY DELICIOUS!
YOU STARTED WORKING AT A GOOD PLACE, HUH, MIKI-CHAN.
YOU'LL BRING SOME BACK HOME AGAIN, RIGHT? ♡
THAT'S NO GOOD. IT WASN'T GIVEN TO ME, I BOUGHT IT.
UNLIKE CAKES, THERE'S NO LEFTOVER ICE CREAM...
TODAY IS SPECIAL!

I GET IT... I'LL GO BUY SOME AGAIN!
ANNOYANCE
Whew...

ママレード・ボーイ
【6】

I WONDER IF HE WORKS THERE, TOO
THAT GUY...
DIDN'T COME INTO THE STORE AFTER THAT... WHICH MEANS HE WENT OUT THE BACK DOOR
I WONDER IF HE SAW THEM MY UNDER-PANTS...
OOO, I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED
HE DIDN'T NEED TO COME IN THERE, OF ALL PLACES!
Ah!



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IT ISN'T ANYWHE-E-ERE!!
GONE!!
EVEN IN MY APRON AND BAG...

OR, IF NOT THEN, THEN WHEN I CHANGED CLOTHES.
IT'S LOST. I'M SURE, BACK THEN

EVEN THOUGH IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT THAT I GOT FROM YUU! EVEN THOUGH IT'S MY TREASURED ITEM THAT I LIKED VERY VERY MUCH!!
Gradually
YOU'RE KIDDING
OH NO-O-O...

IF I LOOK FOR IT RE-E-EALLY CAREFULLY AT THE STORE TOMORROW, I'LL DEFINITELY FIND IT!!
WHIRR WHIRR
UH-UH, I MUSTN'T GIVE UP!
Bobson's
FINE INTENDED ICE CREAMS
I CAN FIND IT, RIGHT!?!
SURE ENOUGH, IT'S GONE...
.....
WAIT!
SPROING!
MAYBE IT'S IN THE GAP BETWEEN THE FLOOR-BOARDS..
MAYBE THE CLEANING PERSON DIDN'T NOTICE IT AND THREW IT AWAY.
AHHHH, WHAT A SHOCK... I CAN'T RECOVER
lose Heart!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, KOISHIKAWA-SAN?
RUSTLE RUSTLE
AHHHH, DRAT IT...
I CAN'T SEE CLEARLY. JEE-EE-EEZ!
HUH?
AH.
.....

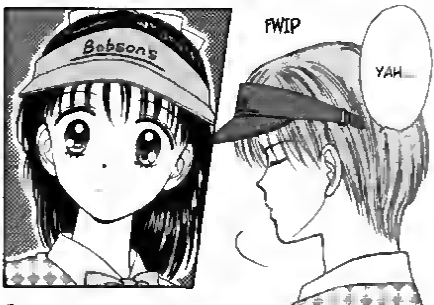
Edited by ZileH from #MangaProject on Dainet

PEEK!
LET ME INTRO-DUCE...
TSUCHIYA KEI-KUN.
MAYBE HE'S YOUR SEMPAI WORKING HERE BY ABOUT 2 MONTHS LONGER THAN YOU, KOISHIKAWA-SAN.
EXCUSE ME!
B-BUT HE'S MY COWORKER.
I HAVE TO HURRY AND GET ALONG WITH HIM!
I SHOULD REALLY LIKE TO DO THAT...
BUT THIS IS SO AWKWARD... I'VE ONLY BEEN SEEN LOOKING DIS-GRACEFUL LIKE THAT AGAIN AND AGAIN...
LEARN A LOT AND GET ALONG WELL TOGETHER, PLEASE!

FREE TALK ①

Today is 12/21/94. I moved 3 days ago and I'm writing this at the new workplace. (I'm getting them to postpone the deadline.) Time flies; it's already been 9 months since the start of the "Marmalade" anime telecast. I have the feeling that since I couldn't write any Free Talk in volume 5, maybe it's a little too late now, but I'm going to try and write several things about anime and such.

The good point about the anime version, of course, is that animation, voices, and music are added. When the skilled performances of the voice actors follow in synch with the characters' movements, and the drama is stirred up with more and more music, then, somehow, they become scenes that are awfully better than even the original work, so I'm happy. Recently, the story has been entirely overtaken and the anime is turning into an original development, and since the fine points aren't known even by me, the author, (although I'm informed of the general outline) I'm watching it with a fresh (?) feeling.



THE COLDROOM DOOR WASN'T SHUT PROPERLY, SO I WENT INSIDE TO CHECK...
mumble
mumble
WHEN I CAME TO GET SOMETHING I'D LEFT BEHIND...

YOU WEREN'T WORKING YESTERDAY, WERE YOU? WHY WERE YOU THERE?

GRRR!

WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO SOMEONE, TURN AND FACE THIS WAY LIKE YOU SHOULD, HUH!
YOU'RE BEING RUDE, Y'KNOW !?
HEY!
YANK!

Bobson's
Bobson's
BWA!
BWA HA HA HA HA !!
!?

I-IT'S JUST TOO FUNNY-Y-Y.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE LOOKED RIDICULOUSLY UNCOOL SINCE YESTERDAY.
I WAS TRYING TO AVOID LOOKING AT YOUR FACE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ...
AND DES-PERATELY... TRYING NOT TO BURST OUT LAUGHING!
GYA HA HA HA HA
I can't sto-o-op! Ahh, it hu-u-urts!
SMOOSH!
HA HA HA HA HA HA

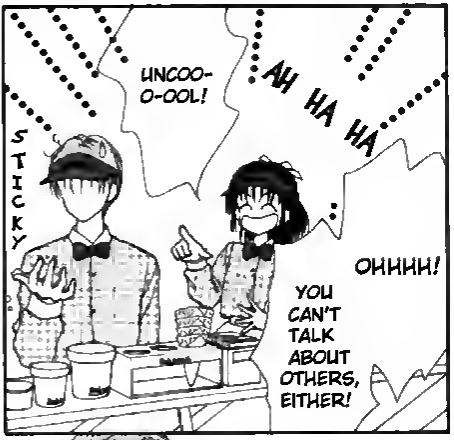
FREE TALK ②

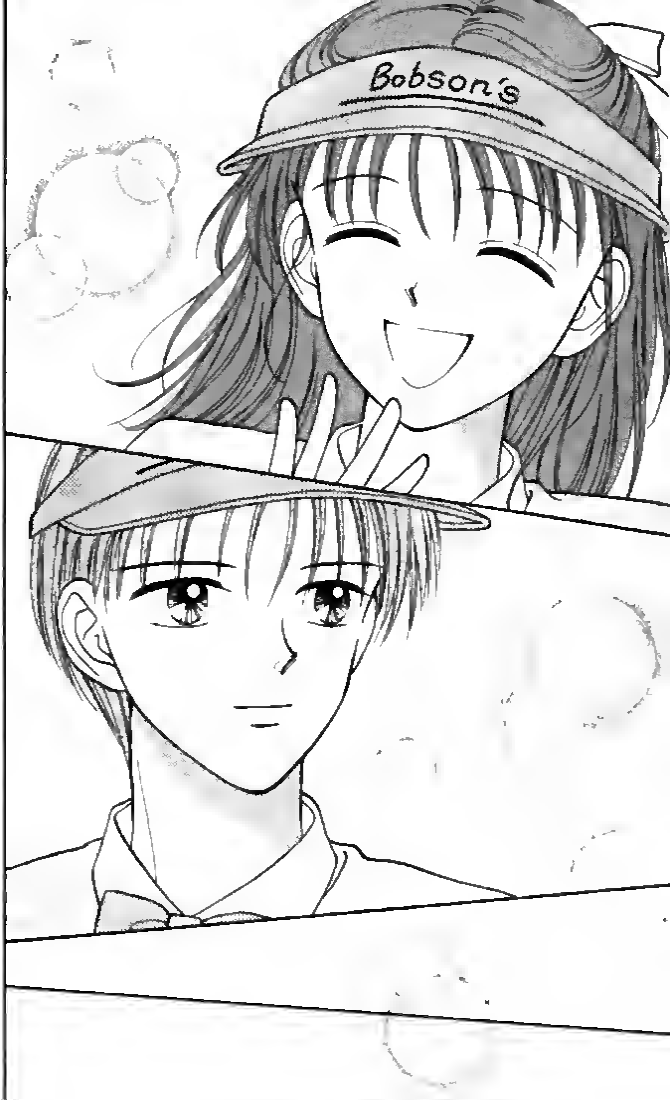
Occasionally, I get a letter that says, "Why is the anime different from the original?" or "I want them to do the original work," but since the amount of original story is totally insufficient, it can't be helped. It's because "Ribbon" is a monthly, but the anime is weekly. Well, even though the contents and the characters' personalities and the roles differ a little, please don't mind too much, and please enjoy both the original work and the anime, kay.

As for the anime's original story, it's in the hands of the production staff, and generally, they've kindly consulted with me beforehand on the makeup of the story. And so, my desires have been heard, too. Like, please don't make anyone die, and don't make things too gloomy...

<2 people who almost looked like they'd die>

Natchan Aoju

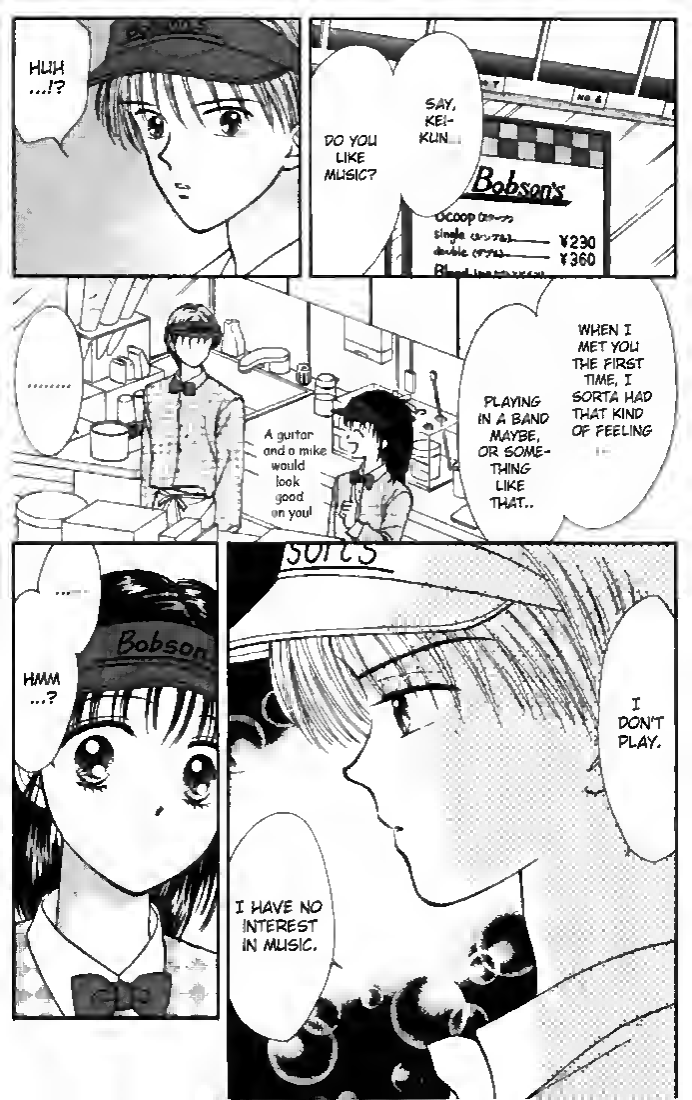



Bobson's

KEI-KUN, YOU'RE 2ND-YEAR?
WHICH HIGH SCHOOL?
A 3RD-EAR AT TOURYOU UNI-VERSITY'S AFFILIATED HIGH SCHOOL HUH
THEN, YOU'RE ONE YEAR OLDER THAN ME

I SEE
I'M NOT GOING RIGHT NOW

A DARK EXPRESSION
MAYBE THERE'S A REASON
Bobson's


HUH ...!?
SAY, KEI-KUN...
DO YOU LIKE MUSIC?
Bobson's
single ¥290
¥360
WHEN I MET YOU THE FIRST TIME, I SORTA HAD THAT KIND OF FEELING
PLAYING IN A BAND MAYBE, OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT..
A guitar and a mike would look good on you!
.....
HMM ...?
I DON'T PLAY.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN MUSIC.

FREE TALK⑦

"If it becomes animated, will letters from male anime fans increase?" is what I was thinking, but it was nothing like that. What RAPIDLY INCREASED particularly une xpectedly were letters from HOUSEWIVES. Mothers in their late-20s to early 30s, while watching with their small children, came to like the show more than them, which is pretty much how the pattern took shape. All say that they're "recalling their days of youth," and are enjoying it. Anyway, the fact that elementary and junior high girls are the targets of "Ribbon" enters into my mind as I write, but that others beside that target group can also get to enjoy it is really a great honor and I'm very happy.

Incidentally, with adult women, Yuu has an over whelming popularity.

AHHHH, THAT...
NEVER MIND THAT
WHAT WERE YOU DOING A LITTLE WHILE AGO? CRAWLING ON THE FLOOR...
AH, IF THAT'S WHAT IT WAS...
I WAS LOOKING FOR A BRACELET
IT LOOKS LIKE I DROPPED IT HERE YESTERDAY...
DRAT IT! IT'S A TERRIBLE SHOCK!
IT'S SOMETHING SPECIAL THAT MY BOYFRIEND GAVE ME FOR CHRISTMAS!
HMM...
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
UH-HUH ♡
HIS NAME IS YUU.

Babsons
NO ...
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT...
SAY, THE BRACELET DIDN'T IT FALL SOME-WHERE?
IT'S GOLD WITH 3 TINY PEARLS LINED UP IN A ROW
Babsons
I SEE
Sigh
WORKING AT AN ICE CREAM SHOP?
MIKE?

I WONDER...
CAN SHE DO ALL THAT AT ONCE?
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
THE CLUB ACTIVITIES ARE REALLY HARD THIS TIME OF YEAR, WITH SUMMER MEETS COMING UP!
THAT'S GOOD...
YEAHHH...
THEN I'LL TELL HER NOT TO OVERWORK HERSELF TOO MUCH
SUOU?

WHAT'S HE DOING!?! WHAT'S WRONG WITH SUZUKI-SAN!? WHAT ABOUT SUZUKI-SAN!?!
THAT GU-U-UY!!
N-NO CALM DOWN. UN-FAITHFULNESS ISN'T THE ONLY ANSWER
A KID SISTER, OR A RELATIVE ARE POSSI-BILITIES, TOO
AH!
SUOU !?!
WOOOSH!
IS THERE A REASON LIKE THAT!? THAT'S A FOREIGNER!

HEY!
WHACK
KYAAAAAAAA

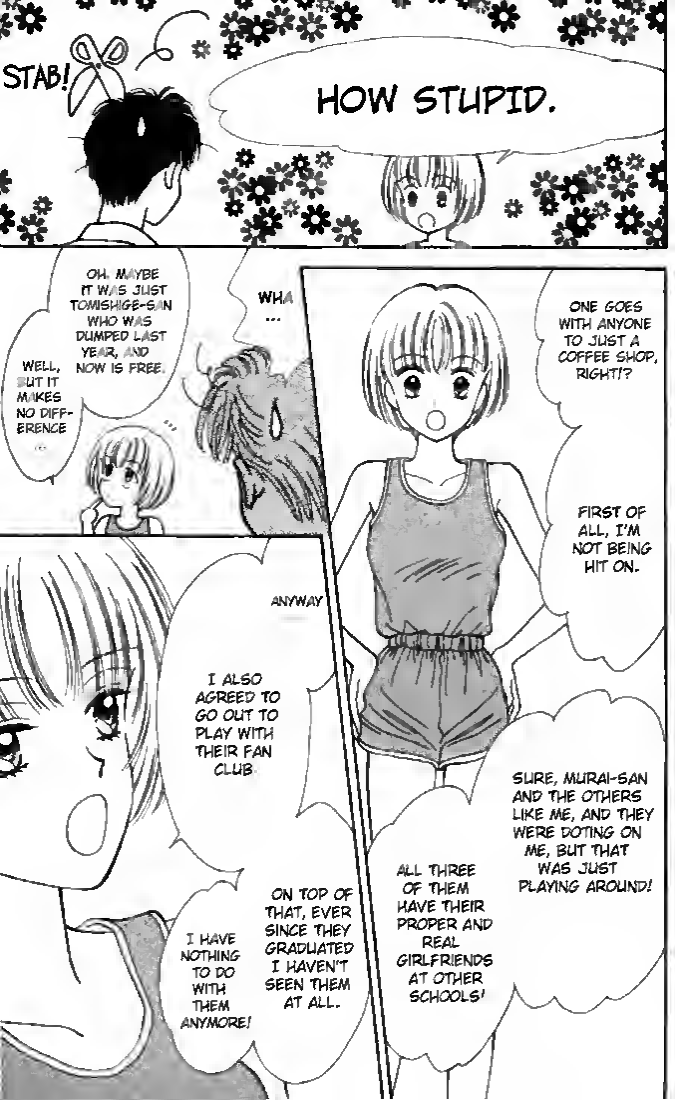
DON'T DO ANYTHING THAT'LL MAKE HER EVEN MORE SAD!!
SUZUKI-SAN...
IS TERRIBLY HURT BY WHAT HAPPENED WITH MATSUURA !!
WHAM!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ALL OF A SUDDEN?
DON'T TALK NON-SENSE !!
GRRRR!

SUOU,
STOP!
QUIT IT!!
ASS-HOLE ...
FWIP!
SUOU!

TAKE-OUT DELIVERY
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY!?
ISN'T HE A LITTLE WEIRD !?
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
Sakaki Academy
HEY-Y-Y, GINTA.
WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?
I SAID, HEY!
TAP
TAP
TAP
OH!?
GINTA ...

SUZUKI-SAN!
SHOU-KUN!?
OHH... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE...?
STOP SEEING THAT GUY!
HE WAS WALKING WITH HIS ARM AROUND ANOTHER GIRL'S SHOULDER !!
INSTEAD OF SOMEONE LIKE THAT, THERE ARE LOTS OF OTHER NICE GUYS...

MURAI OR WHATEVER OF THE FAN CLUB
IT'S HIM!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "THAT GUY—"?
W-WAIT A SEC
IT WAS EMILY FROM THE AMERICAN SCHOOL, RIGHT? MURAI-SAN'S GIRLFRIEND?
YOU MEAN, MURAI-SAN HAD HIS ARM AROUND A GIRL'S SHOULDER
WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THAT?
B-BECAUSE ...
HE WAS HITTING ON YOU, RIGHT?
ON TOP OF THAT, I SAW THE TWO OF YOU AT A COFFEE SHOP RECENTLY ...
NO WAY!
WHY WOULD I?
EHH!?
YOU AREN'T GOING OUT WITH THAT GUY, SUZUKI-SAN...?


STAB!
HOW STUPID.
WHA ...
OH. MAYBE IT WAS JUST TOMOHIGE-SAN WHO WAS DUMPED LAST YEAR, AND NOW IS FREE.
WELL, BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE ...
ONE GOES WITH ANYONE TO JUST A COFFEE SHOP, RIGHT!?
FIRST OF ALL, I'M NOT BEING HIT ON.
SURE, MURAI-SAN AND THE OTHERS LIKE ME, AND THEY WERE DOTING ON ME, BUT THAT WAS JUST PLAYING AROUND!
ALL THREE OF THEM HAVE THEIR PROPER AND REAL GIRLFRIENDS AT OTHER SCHOOLS!
ON TOP OF THAT, EVER SINCE THEY GRADUATED I HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AT ALL.
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM ANYMORE!
ANYWAY
I ALSO AGREED TO GO OUT TO PLAY WITH THEIR FAN CLUB

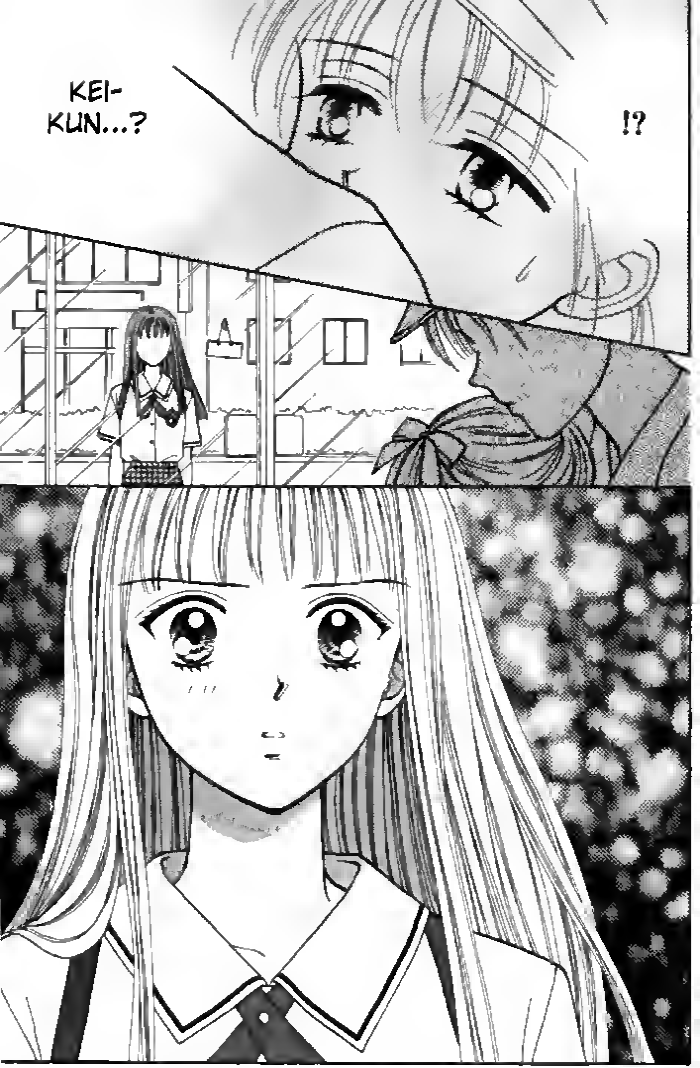
YOU'RE KIDDING
I FELT SO SURE..
THAT YOU'D BE HURT AGAIN, SUZUKI-SAN..
I STRUCK SOME-ONE
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE..
WHAT'LL I DO-O-O?

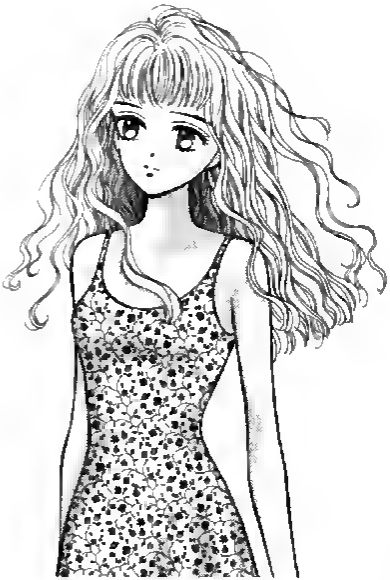
YOU WERE
THINKING I'D BE HURT?
THIS WAS FOR ME...?
UH...
BLUSH...
Tee!

LET'S GO.
EH? WHERE ...?
THE HEALTH ROOM.
I'LL TREAT YOUR WOUND FOR YOU.
CLA-A-ANG
CLA-A-ANG
CLA-A-ANG

HEY,
YOU'RE LOOKING PALE!!
I'M FEELING KINDA BAD..
DOING BOTH TENNIS AND WORK LATELY WAS PRETTY HARSH, SO MAYBE I'VE PILED UP THE FATIGUE...
Bobson's
WOBBLE
TAKE A BREAK ON THE 2ND FLOOR
ANYWAY, THERE AREN'T MANY CUSTOMERS AROUND
OKAY
THANKS
FAINT!
HEY...!

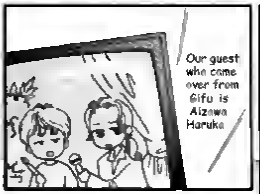
I'M SORRY
FEELING A BIT FAINT...
I'M ALL RIGHT
IT'S NO BIG DEAL
SQUEEZE...

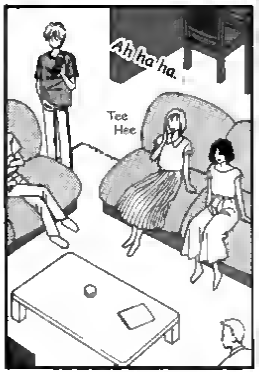

KEI-
KUN...?
!?



AH...
SORRY I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.
THANKS
AHH...
SORRY
WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I REST ON THE SECOND FLOOR FOR A WHILE?

Ah ha ha ha
I'M BEING WAY TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS
CAN'T BE!
HE WAS ONLY HOLDING ME UP
JUST NOW, IT SEEMED LIKE I WAS SORT OF...
HUGGED BY KEI-KUN...
TAP
TAP
TAP
WOO
Again
FAINT!
I'M LEAVING EARLY
wobble
wobble
THIS ISN'T GOOD... I'M PRETTY POOPED





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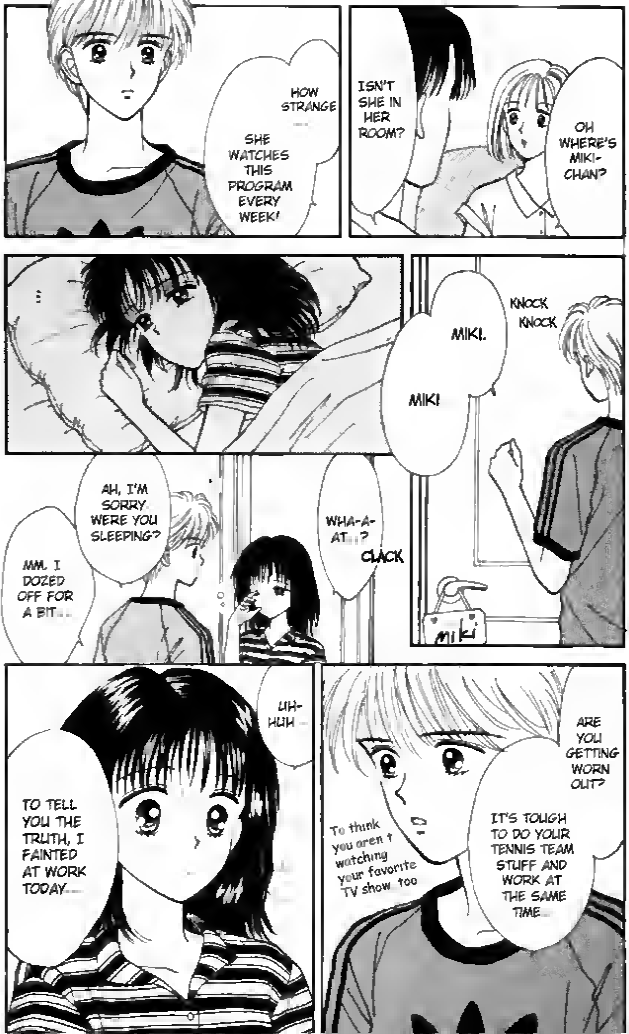
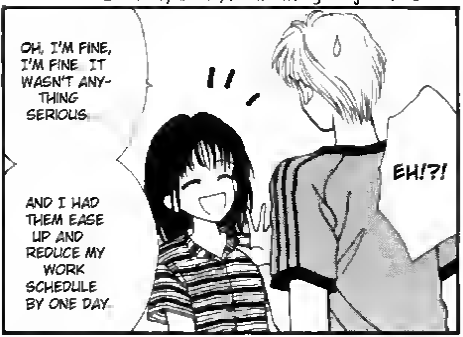
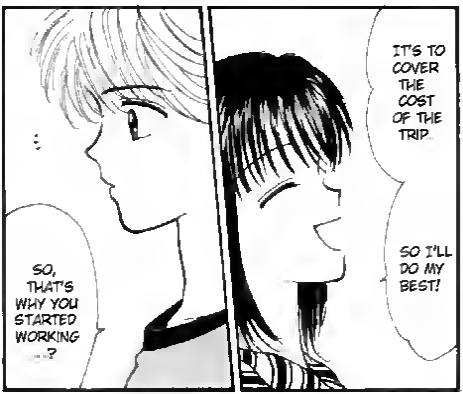
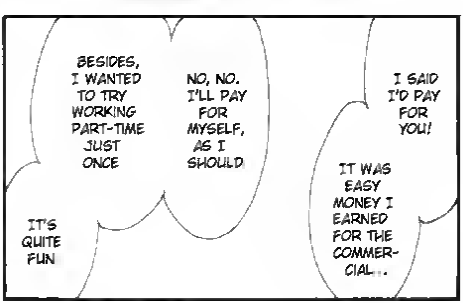

HOW STRANGE...
SHE WATCHES THIS PROGRAM EVERY WEEK!
ISN'T SHE IN HER ROOM?
OH WHERE'S MIKI-CHAN?
KNOCK KNOCK
MIKI.
MIKI
MIKI
WHA-A-AT...?
CLACK
AH, I'M SORRY WERE YOU SLEEPING?
MM. I DOZED OFF FOR A BIT...
UH-HUH...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I FAINTED AT WORK TODAY...
ARE YOU GETTING WORN OUT?
IT'S TOUGH TO DO YOUR TENNIS TEAM STUFF AND WORK AT THE SAME TIME...
To think you aren't watching your favorite TV show too

FREE TALK

Since, from the beginning, I didn't have much (any at all... almost) of an image in my mind of the characters' voices myself, I was thinking how nice it would be if voice actors who have the type of voice I like did them. Kouda Mariko-san, who has the role of Miki, has an extremely cute voice, and I think it's great that we could get her to do it. She, herself, is awfully cute, too. It seems she doesn't photograph too well, but the actual person is FAR cuter than the picture that appeared in "Ribbon". Since Okuyu Ryoutarou san, who does Yuu, has an unboyishly low and sexy voice, it seems there were many readers who were also disconcerted. Even Yazawa Ai was worrying (hoping?), "Will he do a love scene with that sexy voice..." (^x^) I thought that maybe he was a bit mature for Yuu, too, but among those who came in to audition, his was my most favorite voice, and I'm glad we could get him to do it. Besides, Okuyu san's name is sorta nice, don't you think? It's powerful.






BESIDES, I WANTED TO TRY WORKING PART-TIME JUST ONCE
IT'S QUITE FUN
NO, NO. I'LL PAY FOR MYSELF, AS I SHOULD
I SAID I'D PAY FOR YOU!
IT WAS EASY MONEY I EARNED FOR THE COMMER-CIAL...

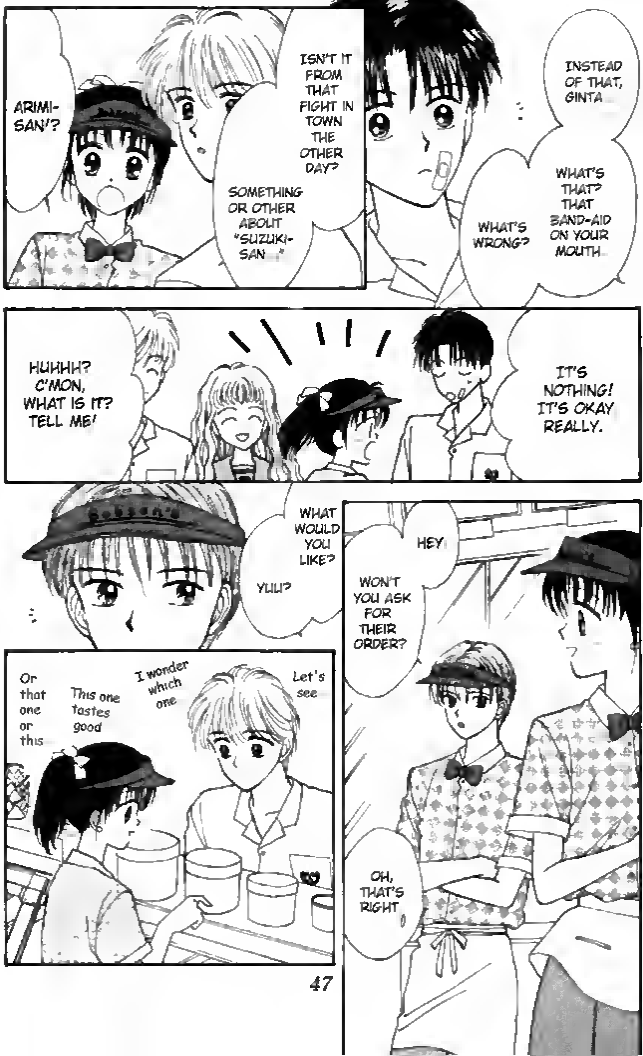
IF THAT'S IT, THEN THAT'S OKAY, BUT...
DON'T OVERDO IT
OKAY
THANKS
SHOU WAS CONCERNED, TOO!!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, SHOU WAS A LITTLE WEIRD TODAY, AND...
NOT A GOOD IDEA
IF OUR PARENTS COME...
JUST FOR A BIT
CLING!
SO WARM...

FREE TALK©

Yamazaki Wakana-san, who does the role of Meiko, was decided on from the start without an audition, due to the strong push of Toei Animation's producer, Seki. I had no objections at all either, and I think that with her refined voice she's perfect as Meiko. Recently, when we had a Christmas party for those involved in "Marmalade_", she called out to me that, "I'm reading your original story and I was happy. I think that Kanemaru Junichi-san, who does Ginta, is also perfect. I like both his voice and his performance very much. And, Hisakawa Aya-san, who does Arimi... Hisakawa-san's Arimi... nearly the same as for Yamazaki-san... was decided on from the start, but when I first listened to the audition tape and even now, I *always* think, "How well done!" Continued in (ω)

YUU IS ALWAYS THERE BESIDE ME LIKE THIS.
THOUGH I LOST THE BRACE-LET...
JUST THAT IS FINE.
IT'S ENOUGH ...
Sniffle
I'M SORRY, YUU
BUT I CAN'T TELL HIM THAT I LOST IT...

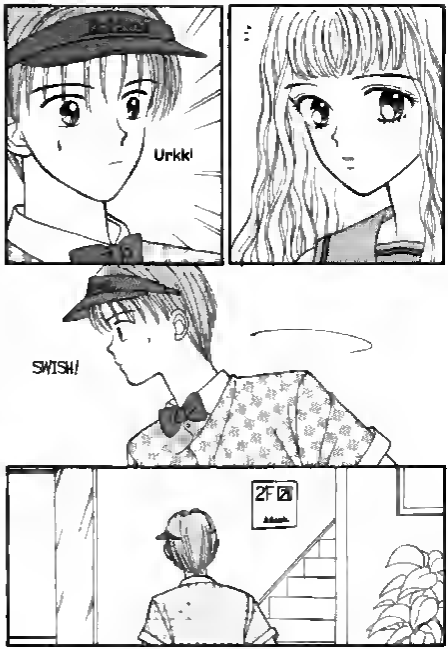
Bobson's
WELCO...
OH.
YO, MIKI!
YOU'RE HERE?
ARE YOU WORKING SERIOUSLY?
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL SHOP
AREN'T YOU ALWAYS JUST TRYING OUT ALL THE FLAVORS FOR YOURSELF?
NOT MUCH
I WON'T!
YOU'LL GET FAT!
WHAT A PEST GRR

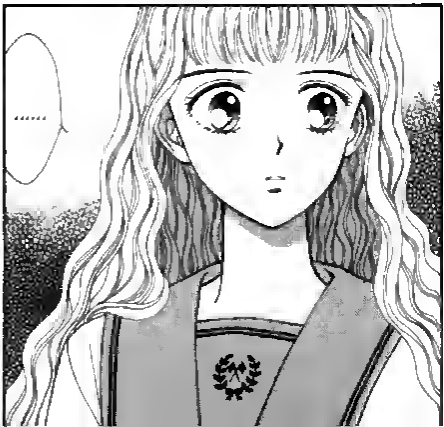

ARIMI-SAN!?
ISN'T IT FROM THAT FIGHT IN TOWN THE OTHER DAY?
SOMETHING OR OTHER ABOUT "SUZUKI-SAN..."
INSTEAD OF THAT, GINTA...
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT'S THAT? THAT BAND-AID ON YOUR MOUTH...
HUHHH? C'MON, WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!
IT'S NOTHING! IT'S OKAY REALLY.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
YUU?
HEY
WON'T YOU ASK FOR THEIR ORDER?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT
Or that one or this
This one tastes good
I wonder which one
Let's see

Babson
HMM..
THIS GUY, HUH..
I'M SURE...
THAT GIRL!
Let's see
I wonder if caramel cream is good
Or

FREE TALK ©

Of course, the other voice actors are also pros, so naturally they're good at it, but, for Hisakawa san's Arimi in particular, I always think "how goo-oo-ood" "See ya," and "uh-uh, that's okay" putting meaning even into little lines like that makes me feel that, "Yeah, that's it, that's the right nuance, huhhh!" But, if you're saying, "if she's so good, shouldn't you have gotten her to do Miki, the major character?", it doesn't quite work out like that, we had her do a little of Miki's lines when she did her audition, but since the feel got to be a little serious, it didn't match too well, and I think, sure enough, it's great that Miki is Kouda san and Arimi is Hisakawa san I like (or like a lot) all those other voice actors, too, but since it'll become endless I'll only consider the 5 main characters



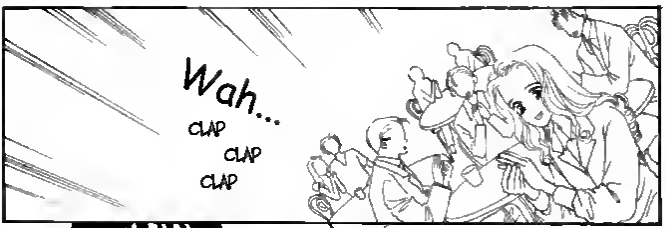


GEH
IT'S PAST 8
Returning after a Sunday of fun with Meiko.
I'LL HURRY HOME AND EAT DINNER
I'M HUNGRY

He went in
KE..
KEI-KUN?
LIVE HOU
LIZARD
INFORMA
JAZZ TRIO

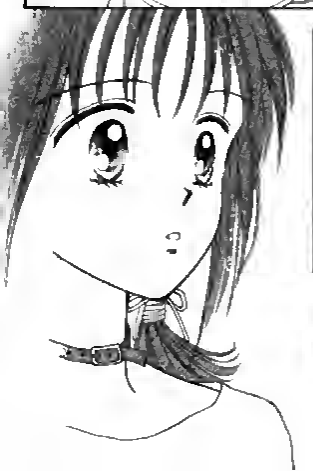
* A "LIVE HOUSE" IS A CLUB THAT FEATURES A LIVE BAND

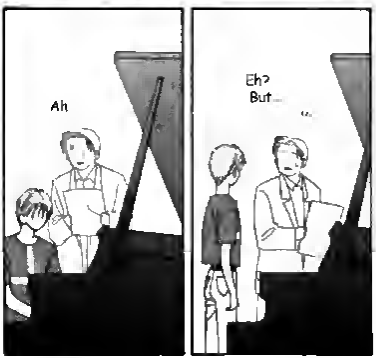
THE
OOL
NE
MUSIC


Wah...
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP

CLATTER
KEI-KUN...?
WAIT JUST A MINUTE

SO LIKE, THIS IS JAZZ?
CLAP CLAP CLAP
HOW COOL!




Ah
Eh? But...

WHAT?
AN OUTSIDE PLAYER?
BUZZ...
Whoo

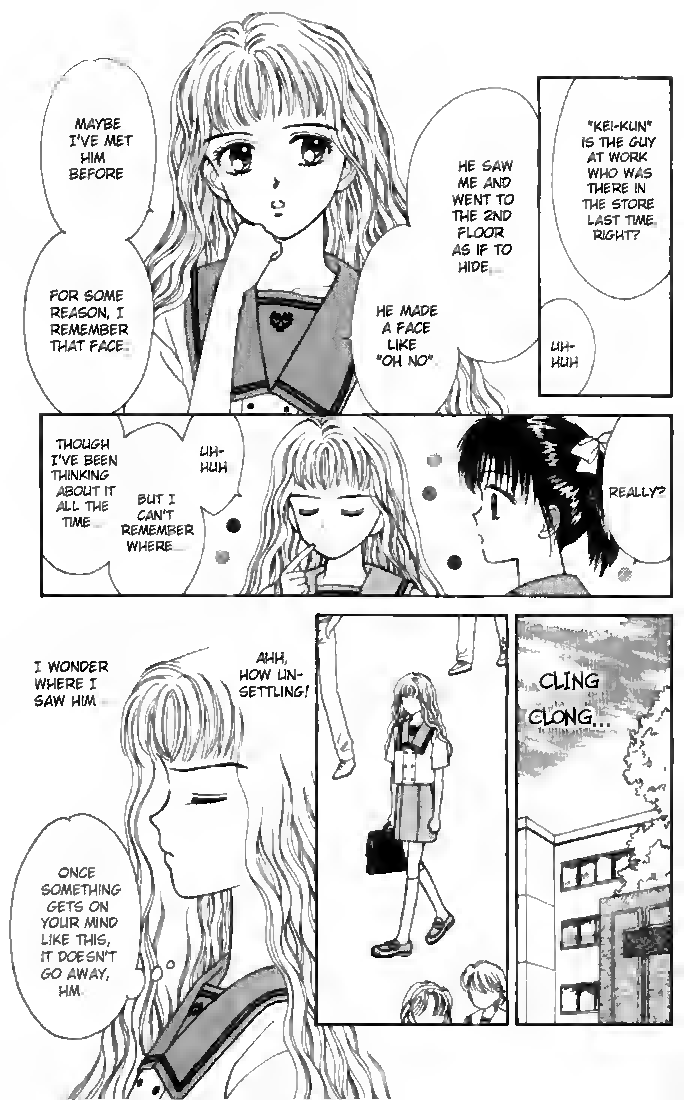
Wah...!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I WAS SO SURPRISED!
TO THINK YOU HAD A SPECIAL ABILITY LIKE THAT, KEI-KUN-.

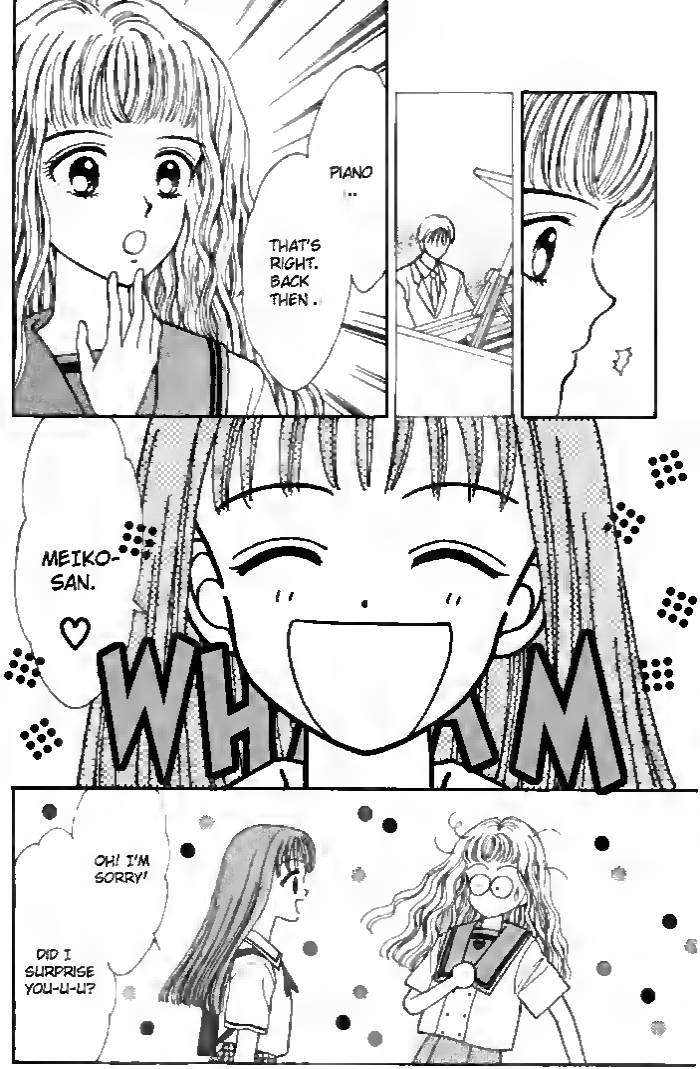
Amazing!
AD-LIBBED!
SO I ARRANGED IT TO SUIT AND AD-LIBBED...
IT'S A STANDARD NUMBER...
EVEN THOUGH YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY SHEET MUSIC, YOU PLAYED SMOOTHLY...
YOU'RE VERY GOOD, AREN'T YOU? ON THE PIANO!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN TAKING LESSONS?
BUT YOU WERE PLAYING MUSIC, AFTER ALL.
I HAD A FEELING IT WAS LIKE THAT.
HUH. .?
TO REACH THE POINT WHERE YOU CAN PLAY AT THAT LEVEL IS, SURE ENOUGH, PRETTY...
I QUIT ALREADY...
THAT SORT OF THING... I'VE QUIT!

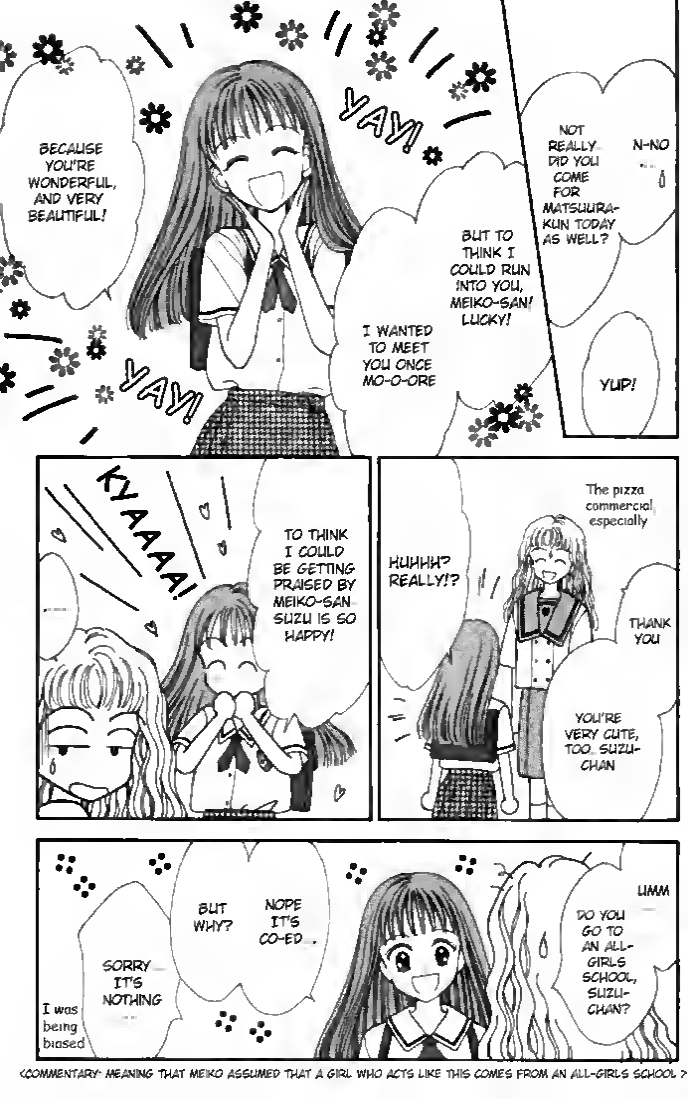
JUST NOW...
I WANTED TO SHOW OFF TO YOU...
BECAUSE THAT'S THE ONLY THING I CAN DO.
AH. KEI...
SURE ENOUGH
I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT...

3-B
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED ...?

I WONDER IF IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIM BEING OUT OF SCHOOL...
DESPITE THE FACT HE PLAYS THE PIANO SO WELL, HE STILL SAYS HE QUIT AND DOESN'T LIKE MUSIC...

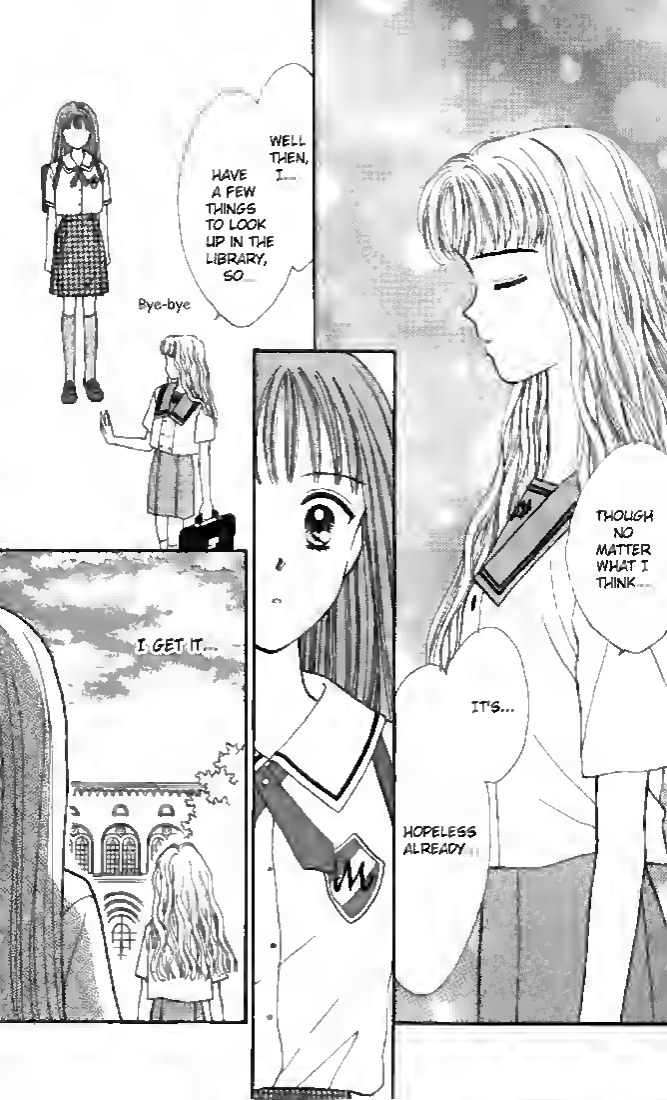

"KEI-KUN" IS THE GUY AT WORK WHO WAS THERE IN THE STORE LAST TIME, RIGHT?
UH-HUH
HE SAW ME AND WENT TO THE 2ND FLOOR AS IF TO HIDE...
HE MADE A FACE LIKE "OH NO".
MAYBE I'VE MET HIM BEFORE
FOR SOME REASON, I REMEMBER THAT FACE...
REALLY?
UH-HUH
THOUGH I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME...
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER WHERE...
CLING CLONG...
AHH, HOW UN-SETTLING!
I WONDER WHERE I SAW HIM...
ONCE SOMETHING GETS ON YOUR MIND LIKE THIS, IT DOESN'T GO AWAY, HM.


PIANO...
THAT'S RIGHT. BACK THEN.
MEIKO-SAN.
WHAM
OH! I'M SORRY!
DID I SURPRISE YOU-U-U?

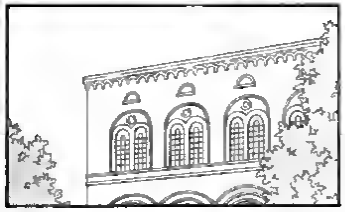

BECAUSE YOU'RE WONDERFUL, AND VERY BEAUTIFUL!
YAY!
YAY!
I WANTED TO MEET YOU ONCE MO-O-ORE
BUT TO THINK I COULD RUN INTO YOU, MEIKO-SAN! LUCKY!
NOT REALLY... DID YOU COME FOR MATSUURA-KUN TODAY AS WELL?
N-NO
YUP!
KYAAAA!
TO THINK I COULD BE GETTING PRAISED BY MEIKO-SAN SUZU IS SO HAPPY!
HUHHH? REALLY!?
The pizza commercial especially
THANK YOU
YOU'RE VERY CUTE, TOO, SUZU-CHAN
I was being biased
SORRY... IT'S NOTHING
BUT WHY?
NOPE IT'S CO-ED.
UMM...
DO YOU GO TO AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL, SUZU-CHAN?

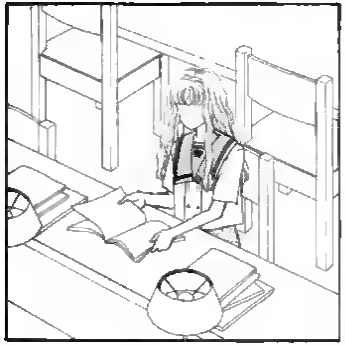
<COMMENTARY: MEANING THAT MEIKO ASSUMED THAT A GIRL WHO ACTS LIKE THIS COMES FROM AN ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL >

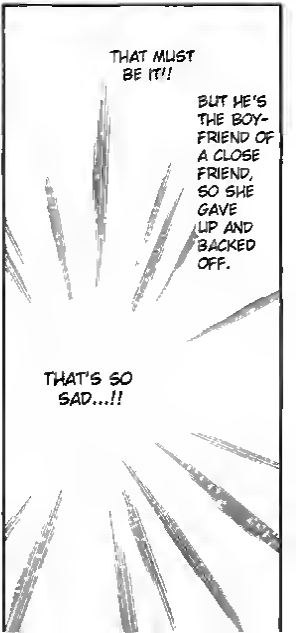
YOU'RE REALLY BEAUTIFUL, MEIKO-SAN!
IT'S NO WONDER ONIICHAN IS SO CRAZY ABOUT YOU...
BUT IT ISN'T OKAY FOR YOU, IS IT, MEIKO-SAN?
Though to tell you the truth,
Suzu doesn't think you look too good together either...
ONIICHAN. HE ISN'T YOUR TYPE?
THAT'S NOT IT...
THERE'S SOMEONE ...
I LIKE.


WELL THEN, I...
HAVE A FEW THINGS TO LOOK UP IN THE LIBRARY, SO...
Bye-bye
I GET IT...
THOUGH NO MATTER WHAT I THINK...
IT'S...
HOPELESS ALREADY...

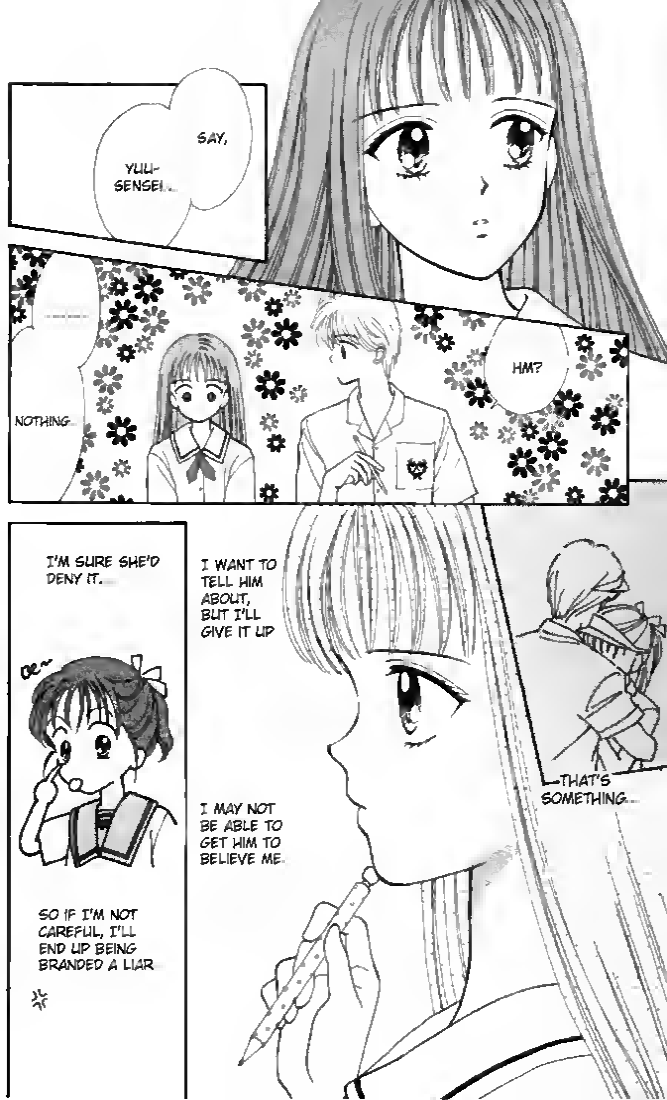
YUU-SENSEI IS THE ONE MEIKO-SAN LIKES!!
I GET IT.






THAT MUST BE IT!!
BUT HE'S THE BOY-FRIEND OF A CLOSE FRIEND, SO SHE GAVE UP AND BACKED OFF.
THAT'S SO SAD...!!

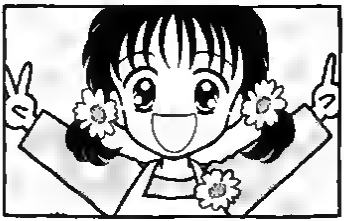
Musical Companion 6
Musical Companion 7
THERE-FORE, IN THIS CASE...
FOUND IT!
THIS IS IT!
THE AUXILIARY VERB "MAY" MEANS "KA MO SHIRENAI"
AND THEN...


SAY,
YUU-SENSEI...
HM?
NOTHING...
THAT'S SOMETHING...
I WANT TO TELL HIM ABOUT, BUT I'LL GIVE IT UP
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET HIM TO BELIEVE ME.
I'M SURE SHE'D DENY IT.
Oe~
SO IF I'M NOT CAREFUL, I'LL END UP BEING BRANDED A LIAR.

SUZU WILL NEVER FORGIVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT!!
BUT!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THIS PASS.
SQUEEZE
Suzu's image
AND MAKE HIM HAPPY WITH MEIKO-SAN!!
I'LL MAKE YUU-SENSEI BREAK UP WITH THAT GIRL...
I'VE ALREADY THOUGHT OF A PLAN!
Heh! Heh! Heh!
SHE ISN'T LISTENING TO ME AT ALL...
AND SO THIS "MUST" HERE IS...

THE YOUNGEST WINNER OF THE NATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION !?
onal Music Competition
Champion Piano Division
Tauchiya Kei (14)
KEI-KUN. HE WAS SOMEONE THIS AMAZING...
Though I quite forgot about it.
WHEN THEY HAD A VICTORY PARTY AT HIS PL_CE, I WAS TAKEN THERE AND INTRODUCED.
HE'S THE SON OF A PRESIDENT WHO HAD BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH MY F_THER.
HOW COME YOU KNEW, MEIKO?
My God!
HE'S A TALENTED PIANIST AND ON TOP OF THAT, A HIGH-SOCIETY BOY.

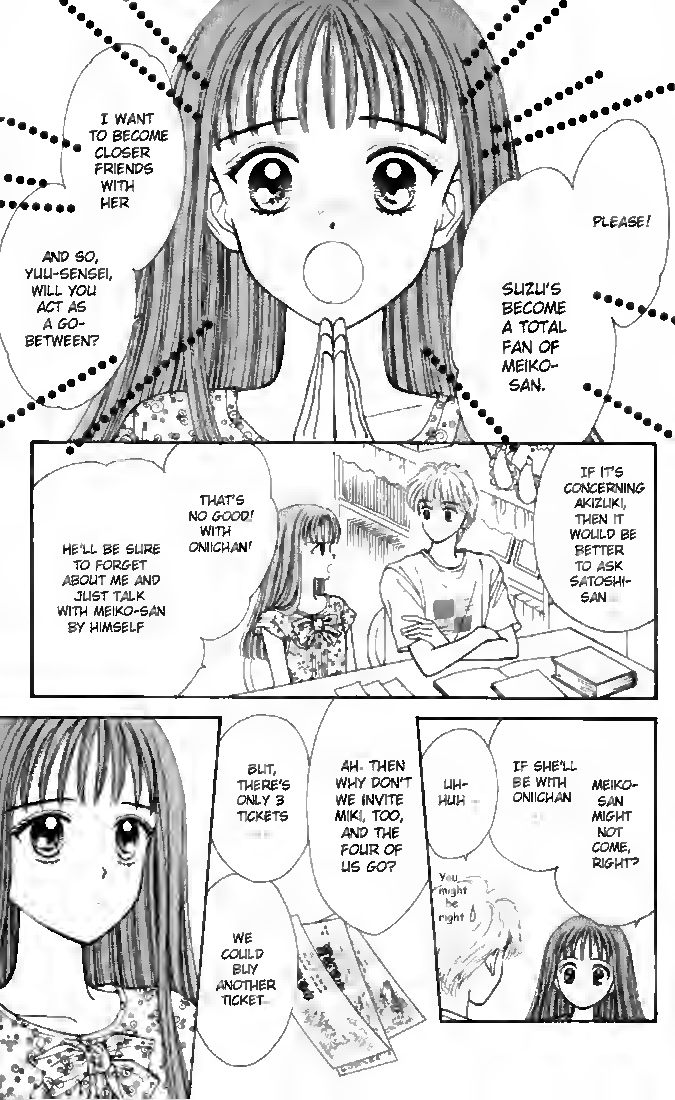
ALSO, AT THE PARTY, A SINGLE MUSICAL PIECE WAS PLAYED, BUT IT WAS REALLY WONDERFUL.
EVEN I .. SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PIANO AT ALL. . WAS MOVED.
THAT HE QUIT IS SUCH A WASTE. .
Musical Companion 3



Mi-i-in
Mi-i-in
SO HO-O-OT.
STARTING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, IT'S SUMMER VACATION AT LAST ...
Mi-i-in
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR...
THOUGH I'LL PROBABLY GO, AS USUAL, TO THE COUNTRY HOME IN IZU AND SPEND SOME TIME RELAXING AND READING OR SOMETHING.
Mi-i-in
WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER, MEIKO? DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING PLANNED?
HOW LUCKY... TO BE AN UPTOWN GIRL! TO SPEND THE SUMMER AT A COUNTRY HOME EVERY YEAR!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING A LOT MORE WONDERFUL TO LOOK FORWARD TO, RIGHT, MIKI?
SO RI-I-ICH I'LL BE SUPER-BUSY WITH CLUB ACTIVITIES AND WORK!
Mi-i-in
Mi-i-in

WITH MATSUURA-KUN...
A "VA*CA*TION" FOR JUST THE TWO OF YOU!
♡
SLAP
STOP IT! IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!!
C-
C'MO-O-ON ...JEE-E-EEZ, MEIKO-O-O!
A SUMMER FOR TWO WITH YUU.
"THE SUM-MER I LOVE
!!!

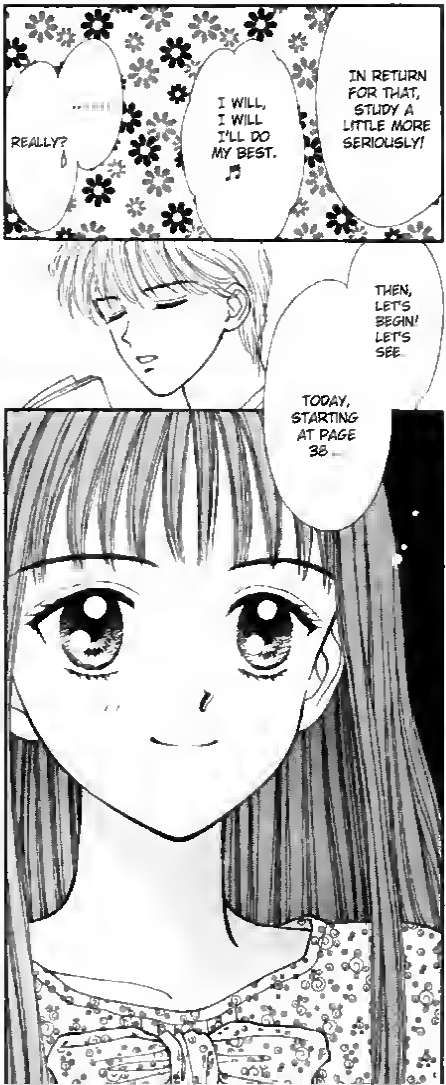
I HAVE THE FEELING IT MIGHT BE FULL OF NICE THINGS!

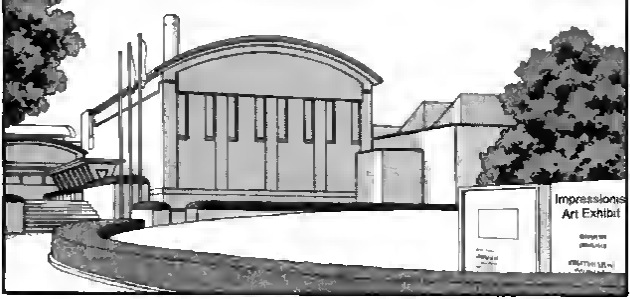

I WANT TO BECOME CLOSER FRIENDS WITH HER
AND SO, YUU-SENSEI, WILL YOU ACT AS A GO-BETWEEN?
PLEASE!
SUZU'S BECOME A TOTAL FAN OF MEIKO-SAN.
HE'LL BE SURE TO FORGET ABOUT ME AND JUST TALK WITH MEIKO-SAN BY HIMSELF
THAT'S NO GOOD! WITH ONICHAN!
IF IT'S CONCERNING AKIZUKI, THEN IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ASK SATOSHI-SAN
MEIKO-SAN MIGHT NOT COME, RIGHT?
IF SHE'LL BE WITH ONICHAN
UH-HUH
You might be right
AH- THEN WHY DON'T WE INVITE MIKI, TOO, AND THE FOUR OF US GO?
BUT, THERE'S ONLY 3 TICKETS
WE COULD BUY ANOTHER TICKET

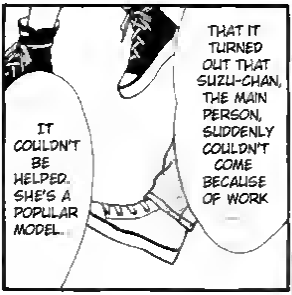
I'M SORRY FOR MIKI-SAN BUT...
SUZU WANTS TO GO AS THREE
AS THREE PEOPLE... WITH YUU-SENSEI WHO I LIKE A LOT AND MEIKO-SAN WHO I LIKE A LOT!
PLEASE, YUU-SENSEI.
CAN'T WE!?
SWOON
SWOON
YAYYY!
REALLY!?!
I UNDER-STAND.
THEN, I'LL TRY T'LKING TO AKIZUKI.

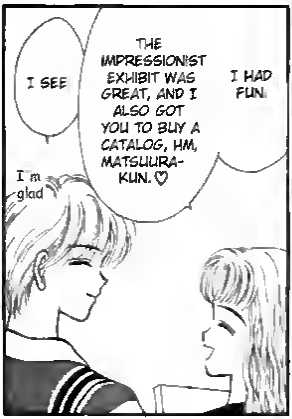
FREE TALK ⑦

When the anime started, there was a small response on the pronunciation of "Natchan" They said that "the intonation was different from what they were thinking" Actually, I thought so, too (^x^) I had meant it to be "NAtchan", but they said it as "natCHAN" in the anime I tried to ask anyway if I could get them to fix that, but it seems it was hopeless because they had already started doing it that way I wonder if people from Kansai thought that it was "natchan"...? Another thing, the way they say "Koishikawa" also differs from what I intended I had meant it to be "koISHIKAWA", but it becomes "koISHIkawa" in the anime. Well, it's a minor thing, so I won't worry about it. But it still does seem a little strange to me... (^x^)


REALLY?
I WILL, I WILL I'LL DO MY BEST.
IN RETURN FOR THAT, STUDY A LITTLE MORE SERIOUSLY!
THEN, LET'S BEGIN! LET'S SEE
TODAY, STARTING AT PAGE 38...


Impressionist
Art Exhibit


IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. SHE'S A POPULAR MODEL.
THAT IT TURNED OUT THAT SUZU-CHAN, THE MAIN PERSON, SUDDENLY COULDN'T COME BECAUSE OF WORK...


I SEE
THE IMPRESSIONIST EXHIBIT WAS GREAT, AND I ALSO GOT YOU TO BUY A CATALOG, HM, MATSUURA-KUN. ♡
I HAD FUN.
I'm glad

UH-UH, IT'S OKAY.
I'M SORRY ABOUT TODAY...
MAKING YOU COME ALONG.

I'LL KEEP QUIET
IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT'S REALLY SERIOUS
THAT'S TRUE
MMM...
SUZU-CHAN LIKES YOU, AKIZUKI, MORE THAN MIKI THAT'S SOMETHING THAT'S RATHER HARD TO SAY...
BUT...
HOW ARE WE GOING TO TELL MIKI ABOUT TODAY?
AHH, ME TOO!
I'VE GOTTEN THIRSTY
WHY DON'T WE GET SOMETHING COLD TO DRINK?
I WAS ABLE TO TAKE PERFECT PICTURES. PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE!
Tee Hee!
RIGHT ACCORDING TO PLAN
Intended to be a disguise

IT WAS A TIRING DAY!
SORRY FOR LE VING BEFORE YOU.
Bobso
FINE BLENDED ICE CREA

YO.
KEI-KUN!
OH!
TAP
I WAS GOING TO GO TO THAT CONVENIENCE STORE OVER THERE
MY PLACE IS CLOSE BY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
AT A PLACE LIKE THIS YOU DON'T WORK TODAY, RIGHT?

Edited by ZileH, from #MangaProject on Dalnet

WHEN I WAS A KID, I LOVED THE PIANO.
BEING ABLE TO PLAY MORE SKILLFULLY THAN OTHERS MADE ME HAPPY...
I GOT SICK OF IT.
LIVING AT THE PIANO DAY AFTER DAY.
THAT'S WHY I PLAYED THE PIANO.
EVEN THE LESSONS WERE A LOT OF FUN.

BUT ...
I WAS TOLD I WAS A GENIUS, AND MY LIFE ONLY REVOLVED AROUND THE PIANO, SO PLAYING BECAME AN OBLIGATION ...
SO I ASKED MYSELF, "WHY AM I DOING SOMETHING LIKE THIS?" MORE AND MORE,
IT GOT TO BE THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY.

THEN, PLAYING THE PIANO BECAME MORE AND MORE OF A PAIN...
IT WAS UNPLEASANT AND I COULDN'T STAND IT...
BUT NOW THAT IT WAS TOO LATE, I COULDN'T QUIT, SO THE DISSATISFACTION JUST GREW AND GREW...

ONE DAY..
I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY TEACHER OVER THE SELECTION OF MUSIC FOR A COMPETITION
I wont to play this one
No! Then you wan't be able to shoot for the top
Unless you present music that is flashier and is popular with the judges
I WAS FORCED TO PLAY MUSIC I HATED,
AND FINALLY, I ENDED IT
Tsuchiya-kun!
I won't play the piano ever again! I'm quitting school, too.
I'm sick and tired of this already!!
MY PARENTS AND SENSEI TRIED ALL THEY COULD TO PERSUADE ME ..
BUT I TURNED A DEAF EAR TO THEM.

AND SO, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEY'D LET ME HAVE TIME TO COOL OFF FOR A WHILE
IT TURNED OUT I WAS ABLE TO GET A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL, LEAVE HOME, TOO, AND GET THEM TO ALLOW ME TO LIVE BY MYSELF IN AN APARTMENT.
BUT NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY WAIT, IT'S USELESS
MY RESOLVE WON'T CHANGE.
WORKING PART-TIME, READING BOOKS...
I'M FREE AT LAST. PEACEFUL DAY AFTER PEACEFUL DAY FALLS INTO MY HANDS,
AND I BREATHE A DEEP SIGH OF RELIEF.
I DON'T WANT TO RETURN TO THE LIFE I HAD.
I SEE...
YOU HAVE TO PRACTICE A LOT DAY AFTER DAY, HM...
HOW TRYING...

FREE TALK ②

Speaking of responses related to the anime, sure enough, a huge one was "the color of Arimi's hair." According to what the anime staff told me, pink is the color used in magical shows, but it seems that green and purple are hair colors that you can use in ordinary stories, too. To an amateur like me, I think that both are no different in that they're both unrealistic. But, for Arimi's hair, the 2 final choices that remained were a light brown that was the same as Meiko's, and the present green. But a light brown is too nice-girlish, when you consider the coquettish personality, then it turned out that green is fine. A cel of a light brown-haired Arimi, of which there's only one in existence, is in my hands. So-o-o cu-u-ute!! By the way, Rokutanda started out with Natchan's color, but at that time, Natchan's cels hadn't been made yet. I was the one who said, "a regular color like this is wasted on Rokutanda. Let's make Natchan's this color. It's all right if Rokutanda's is purple or something." Sorry, Rokutanda.

TALENT!?
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU HAVE AN AMAZING TALENT!
BUT IT'S A WASTE AFTER ALL
WHEN YOU HAVE A TALENT DO YOU HAVE TO USE IT!?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
DON'T SAY THE SAME THINGS MY PARENTS AND SENSEI SAY!!

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOUR PAIN... EVEN THOUGH I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT...
UH-UH. SAME HERE.
SAYING THINGS I SHOULDN'T BE SAYING...
AHH...
SORRY
I'M SURE ALL YOUR FRIENDS ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
BUT SHOULD YOU BE TAKING A LEAVE FROM SCHOOL, TOO?
FRIENDS... I DON'T HAVE ANY.
AS FOR FRIENDS, I DON'T HAVE A SINGLE ONE.
THOSE IN THE PIANO SECTION EITHER REGARD ME AS A RIVAL OR AS AN IDOL

THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO CRY.
BUT..

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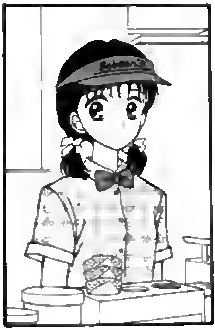


BUT TO THE PERSON IN QUESTION THERE ARE MANY DIFFICULTIES, HUH . .

AND "HOW WONDERFUL" AND "HOW ENVIABLE"...

I THINK, "HE HAS A SPECIAL TALENT THAT SETS HIM APART FROM OTHERS"...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THINGS ARE OKAY THE WAY THEY ARE

BUT..

IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THOSE TALENTS YOU HAVE TO MAKE A LOT OF EFFORT, HM. .

HOW GLAD I AM TO BE AN ORDINARY PERSON

No!
SUZU-CHAN...
HUH?
Come over here!
IT'S SO SAD, KEI-KUN.
I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO..?

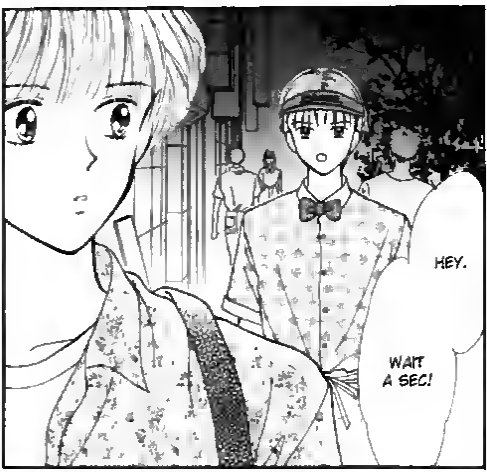
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING...
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I BY ALL MEANS WANT TO SHOW YOU, MIKI-SA-A-AN.
WHAT IS IT?
I SAW THEM BY ACCIDENT
YUU-SENSEI AND MEIKO-SAN WERE ON A DATE AT THE ART MUSEUM.

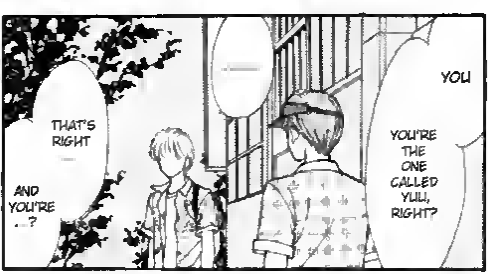
A DATE?
Y'SEE, SUZU ALWAYS CARRIES AROUND A CAMERA, RIGHT?
MY, SUZU WAS SO SURPRI-I-ISED I SAID TO MYSELF, "I HAVE TO LET MIKI KNOW ABOUT THIS," AND HURRIEDLY CLICKED THE SHUTTER
YUU AND MEIKO?
IT WAS AN AW-FULLY NICE ATMO-SPHERE
BUT THEY LOOK VERY GOOD TOGETHER AND REALLY SEEM LIKE A COUPLE OF SWEET-HEARTS
THAT CAN'T BE...
IT'S LIKE I WAS TATTLING
OH! SUZU TOLD YOU THIS. SO PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET, 'KAY?
BUT NO ONE SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GOING TO THE ART MUSEUM
WHY KEEP IT A SECRET FROM ME-E-E?
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN!?

Rattle!
WELCOME!
EXCUSE ME. IS KOISHI-KAWA MIKI HERE?
OH, IF IT'S KOISHIKAWA-SAN YOU WANT, I RELIEVED HER JUST NOW AND SHE WENT HOME
I SEE.
EVEN THOUGH I DROPPED BY SPECIAL TO PICK HER UP...
WE MISSED EACH OTHER, HUH

FREE TALK⑨

The one making the anime is an anime production company called Toei Animation, so I don't necessarily get to draw pictures or write scripts, but they did let me do some of the character designs. (Just the characters' parts I was asked to do.) The ones I did were Natchan during his high school days, Anju (her school uniform, too), Michael, Bill, Jinny, Brian, Doris, and then 3-toushin-sized versions of each character. That's all. Ryouko-sensei, Yayoi-chan, Anju as a young girl, the high school principal, the head teacher, etc., were kindly drawn by Umakoshi-san, the character designer. By the way, the one who decided on the names of the original anime characters is Matsui-san, who's the script and series director.





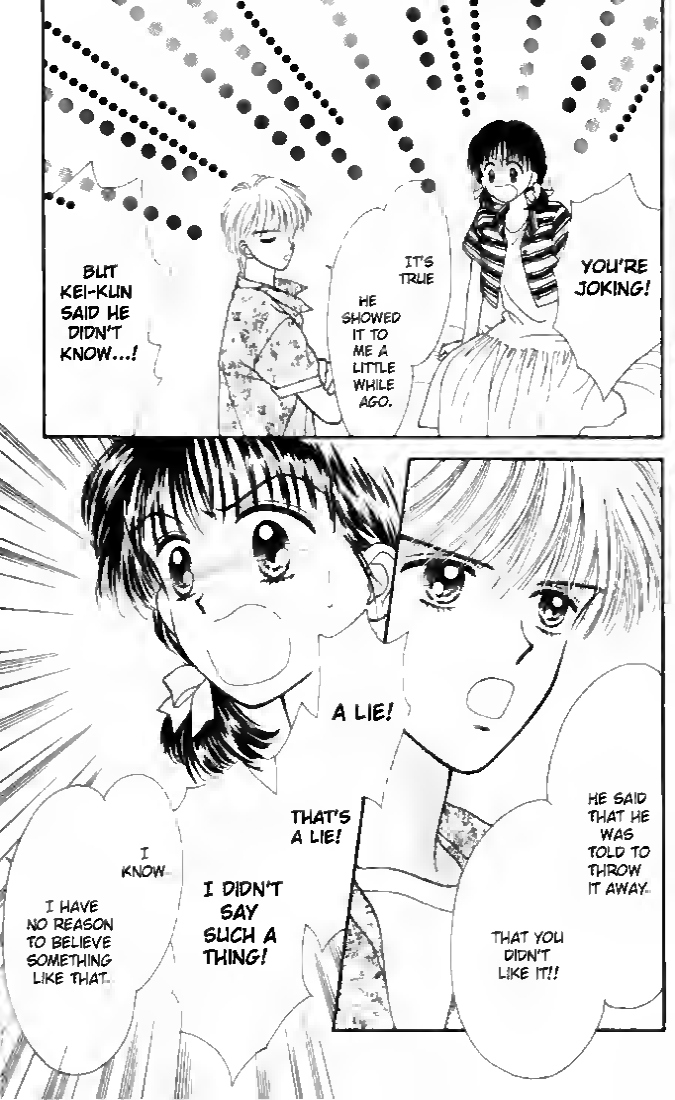
RECOGNIZE THIS?
TSUCHIYA KEI...
DO YOU...
!!
THAT'S...!
SHE...
DOESN'T LIKE IT, SO SHE TOLD ME TO THROW IT AWAY.
EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF GIVING IT TO HER.

Bobson's
EVEN THOUGH YOU WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF GIVING IT TO HER
WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU BROKE UP?

PEEP!
I SEE
MISS MEIKO HAS BEEN OFF TO IZU SINCE YESTERDAY
NO, THAT'S OKAY
I'LL CALL AGAIN.
I'M SURE THERE'S SOME REASON
EVEN NOW, MEIKO IS THINKING OF NATCHAN WITH ALL HER HEART...
YUU AND MEIKO DATED IN SECRET FROM ME...
UH-UH THAT CAN'T BE!
BUT...
BUT WHAT ABOUT YUU!?

NO WAY HAS YUU COME TO PREFER MEIKO OVER ME!!
NO, IT CAN'T BE
BUT WHY KEEP IT A SECRET..?
BANG
I'M COMING IN, MIKI!!
YU...
YOU SURPRISED ME. WHEN DID YOU COME HOME?
JUST NOW
I HAVE SOME-THING TO SAY TO YOU
BEFORE OUR PARENTS COME HOME

THE BRACE-LET THAT I GAVE YOU!
THAT!
HUH?
WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT?
URKK
IS HE SAYING THAT MEIKO AND...?
S-SOME-THING TO SAY?
AH.
THAT'S, UHH..
Sullen
IT'S NOT GONE
THAT GUY, TSUCHIYA, HAS IT.
IT'S GONE
I'M SORRY
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I LOST IT SOME TIME AGO AT WORK...
I LOOKED FOR IT, BUT IN THE END, I COULDN'T FIND IT...


YOU'RE JOKING!
IT'S TRUE
HE SHOWED IT TO ME A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
BUT KEI-KUN SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW...!
A LIE!
THAT'S A LIE!
HE SAID THAT HE WAS TOLD TO THROW IT AWAY.
THAT YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT!!
I KNOW.
I HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
I DIDN'T SAY SUCH A THING!

IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
HE'S INTERESTED IN YOU.
HOW CRUEL, THAT KEI-KUN.
WHY DID HE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HE ISN'T THINKING THAT WAY!
AND SO, ARE YOU SAYING YOU'RE BEYOND BEING AN OBJECT OF INTEREST?
I'M A YEAR OLDER...
HUH? CAN'T BE...
DON'T BE LIKED BY WEIRD GUYS!!
MOST OF THE TIME YOU'RE PRETTY DENSE, HUH.
YOU WERE ADOPTING AN ATTITUDE THAT ENCOURAGES HIM, WEREN'T YOU, LIKE BACK THEN WITH SHOU!

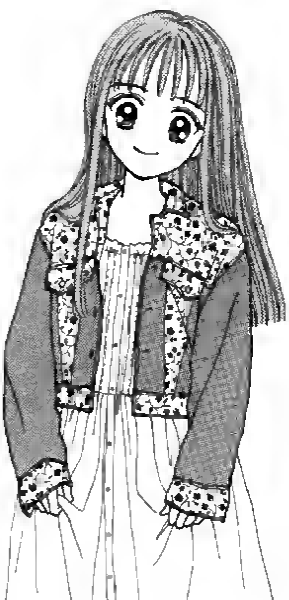
BLUSH
TH-
THAT'S CRU-U-UEL!!
WAIT A MINUTE!
BYE
MAKE SURE YOU GET THE BRACE-LET BACK
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SAY WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY AND RUN AWAY!?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SAY, TOO!!

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT YOU WENT ON A DATE WITH MEIKO!?!
YEAH?
MEIKO'S MY CLOSE FRIEND, RIGHT!?
HOW COME SHE KNOWS?
AH.
THERE'S A SORT OF REASON
THAT WASN'T A DATE
TO THINK WITH MEIKO OF ALL PEOPLE ...
HEY. WAIT A MINUTE!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE SUSPICIOUS OF AKIZUKI AND ME, COULD YOU?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "STUPID" !?
IF YOU DIDN'T WANT ME TO BE SUSPICIOUS, DON'T GO SNEAKING AROUND!
THAT'S STUPID!
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!
FWIP
WHA!
THERE'S NO TALKING TO YOU.

WHAT!? STUPID!
I'M NOT GOING ON ANY TRIPS WITH YOU, YUU!
WHO'S TAKING YOU !?!
BANG!

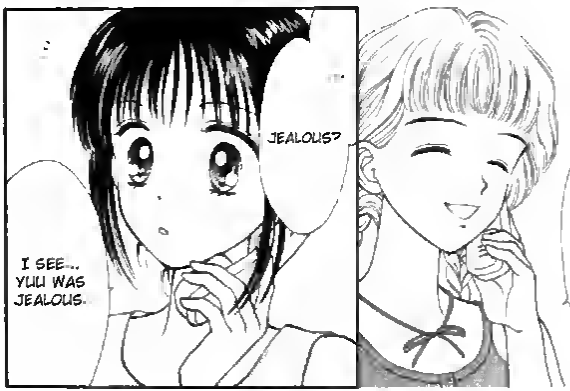
WHA-A-AT?
WHA...
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GET THAT ANGRY.
WHAT DID I SA-A-AY?
YUU, YOU IDIOT...!!



DO YOU HAVE TO LAUGH SO MUCH, MEIKO?
AHHHH.
I SAID SOME-THING STUPID AND MADE HIM ANGRY.
IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT...
BUT IT'S FUNNY-Y-Y
THAT MATSUURA-KUN AND I WOULD SOMEHOW GET TOGETHER. A THING LIKE THAT COULD NEVER HAPPE-E-EN

Edited by _Bnu, from #MangaProject on Dalnet

AND SO THAT WAS JUST TIT FOR TAT...
"DON'T BE LIKED BY WEIRD GUYS!"
"YOU ADOPTED AN ATTITUDE THAT ENCOURAGED HIM, DIDN'T YOU!"
YUU SAID CRUEL THINGS TO ME, TOO.
BUT I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE TO BLAME!


JEALOUS?
I SEE... YUU WAS JEALOUS.
MATSUURA-KUN... HE'S JUST BEING JEALOUS...
THAT'S CUTE.

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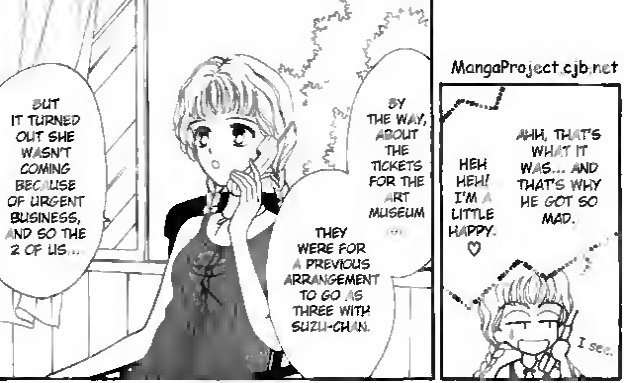
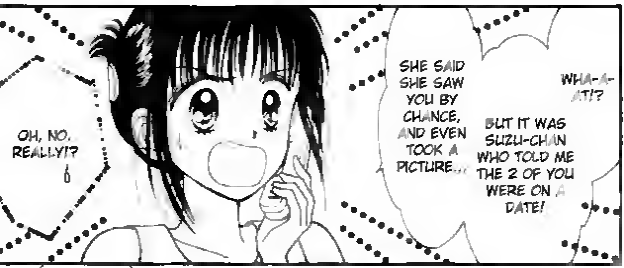
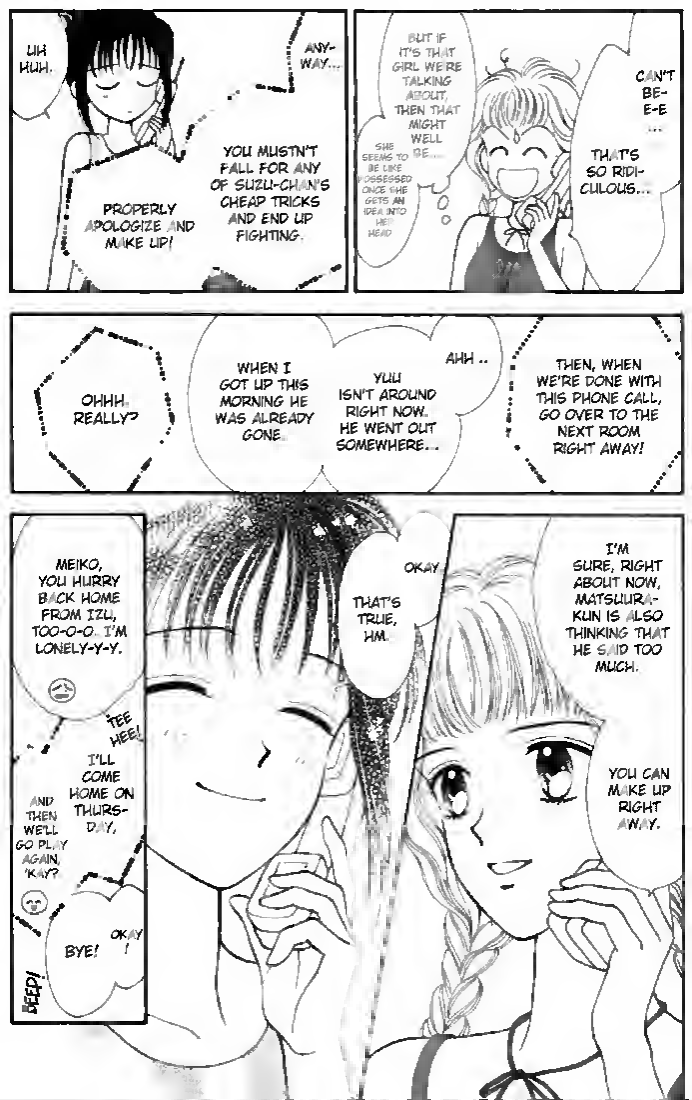

BUT IT TURNED OUT SHE WASN'T COMING BECAUSE OF URGENT BUSINESS, AND SO THE 2 OF US...
BY THE WAY, ABOUT THE TICKETS FOR THE ART MUSEUM ...
THEY WERE FOR A PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT TO GO AS THREE WITH SUZU-CHAN.
HEH HEH! I'M A LITTLE HAPPY. ♡
AHH, THAT'S WHAT IT WAS... AND THAT'S WHY HE GOT SO MAD.
I see.


OH, NO, REALLY!?
SHE SAID SHE SAW YOU BY CHANCE, AND EVEN TOOK A PICTURE...
WHA-A-AT!?
BUT IT WAS SUZU-CHAN WHO TOLD ME THE 2 OF YOU WERE ON A DATE!

WHEN WE FIRST MET, SHE WAS SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED ...
IT MIGHT BE THAT SHE THINKS THAT I DON'T LOOK GOOD WITH YUU.
IF HE ISN'T WITH SOMEONE MORE BEAUTIFUL, THEN SHE WON'T ALLOW IT, OR...
THAT GIRL. I WONDER WHAT SHE'S THINKING?
DOES SHE WANT TO BREAK MATSUURA-KUN AND YOU UP, MIKI?
BUT WHY...?


UH HUH.
ANY-WAY...
YOU MUSTN'T FALL FOR ANY OF SUZU-CHAN'S CHEAP TRICKS AND END UP FIGHTING.
PROPERLY APOLOGIZE AND MAKE UP!
BUT IF IT'S THAT GIRL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, THEN THAT MIGHT WELL BE...
SHE SEEMS TO BE LIKE OBSESSED ONCE SHE GETS AN IDEA INTO HER HEAD.
CAN'T BE-E-E...
THAT'S SO RIDI-CULOUS...
OHHH. REALLY?
WHEN I GOT UP THIS MORNING HE WAS ALREADY GONE.
YUU ISN'T AROUND RIGHT NOW. HE WENT OUT SOMEWHERE...
AHH ..
THEN, WHEN WE'RE DONE WITH THIS PHONE CALL, GO OVER TO THE NEXT ROOM RIGHT AWAY!
MEIKO, YOU HURRY BACK HOME FROM IZU, TOO-O-O. I'M LONELY-Y-Y.
TEE HEE!
I'LL COME HOME ON THURS-DAY.
AND THEN WE'LL GO PLAY AGAIN, 'KAY?
OKAY!
BYE!
BEEP!
OKAY
THAT'S TRUE, HM.
I'M SURE, RIGHT ABOUT NOW, MATSUURA-KUN IS ALSO THINKING THAT HE SAID TOO MUCH.
YOU CAN MAKE UP RIGHT AWAY.

WE'RE HAVING DINNER DELIVERED WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
O sobs or udon?
WHAT IS IT?
YES?
MIKI?
KNOCK KNOCK
An agreeable family aren't we?
I'LL ASK THEM TO DELIVER AROUND 7, KAY?
THEN, IT'S COLD CHINESE NOODLES FOR 5
OKAY
COLD CHINESE NOODLES!
LET'S SEE
WHAT ABOUT YUU'S ORDER?
OH, WAIT
HE SAID HE'LL BE OUT FOR 4-5 DAYS
HE'S OFF ON A TRIP BY HIMSELF AS USUAL!
YUU-KUN'S FINE
Y'KNOW, IT'S THAT THING

BANG
YUU'S ROOM.
PWUP!
A MESSAGE THAT'S ADDRESSED TO ME
DIDN'T HE LEAVE A NOTE BEHIND OR ANYTHING !?
PWUP!
PWUP!
A SINGLE WORD AT LE-E-EAST
NOTHING.
LOSE HEART
CLANG

THAT HE WAS SUCH AN IMPATIENT PERSON
IS BECAUSE OF YESTERDAY
AND, ON TOP OF THAT, I DID IT SO SWIFTLY
TO THINK THAT HE REALLY WENT ALONE
...WHEN I WAS GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM!
GRADUALLY...
ESPECIALLY...
YUU, YOU DUMMY, DUMMY, DUMMY-Y-Y!!
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE !!

FREE TALK ©

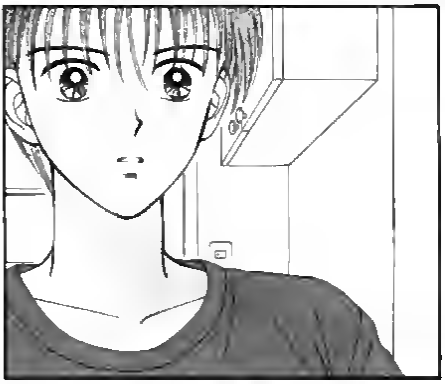
This is about the Marmalade goods that I wrote about in Vol 4... Every day, many items are put on sale, and I really look forward to seeing the samples that are sent to me. The ones that I like a lot are a series of 3-toushin-sized dolls called "Marmalade Kids." Since they've come out with lots of changes of outfits, caps and even bags, it allows a lot of changes of clothing and I'm displaying them on the bookshelf (The photo that appears on the front page of the February '95 issue of Ribbon is that one.)

LIGHT BLUE HEADBAND
RED & WHITE STRIPED T-SHIRT
DARK BLUE DENIM JACKET
DARK BLUE SKIRT
RED & WHITE CANVAS BAG
RED & WHITE STRIPED SOCKS
WHITE HIGH-TOP SNEAKERS

THE COORDINATES THAT I LIKE SUZU.

Instead of just a one piece outfit, there are numerous outfits that have separate tops and bottoms, so you need a sense for coordinates. I want fashionable girls to play with them. I think that even people who are a little older can enjoy them. They're less than 10 cm tall, so even if you display them they won't occupy much space...

They're recommended!



RETURN IT.
THE BRACE-LET.
YOU SUR-PRISED ME.
HOW COME YOU'RE HERE...?
I ASKED FOR YOUR ADDRESS AT BOB-SON'S.
FWIP
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT.
RETURN IT!
I SAID I DON'T KNOW
...

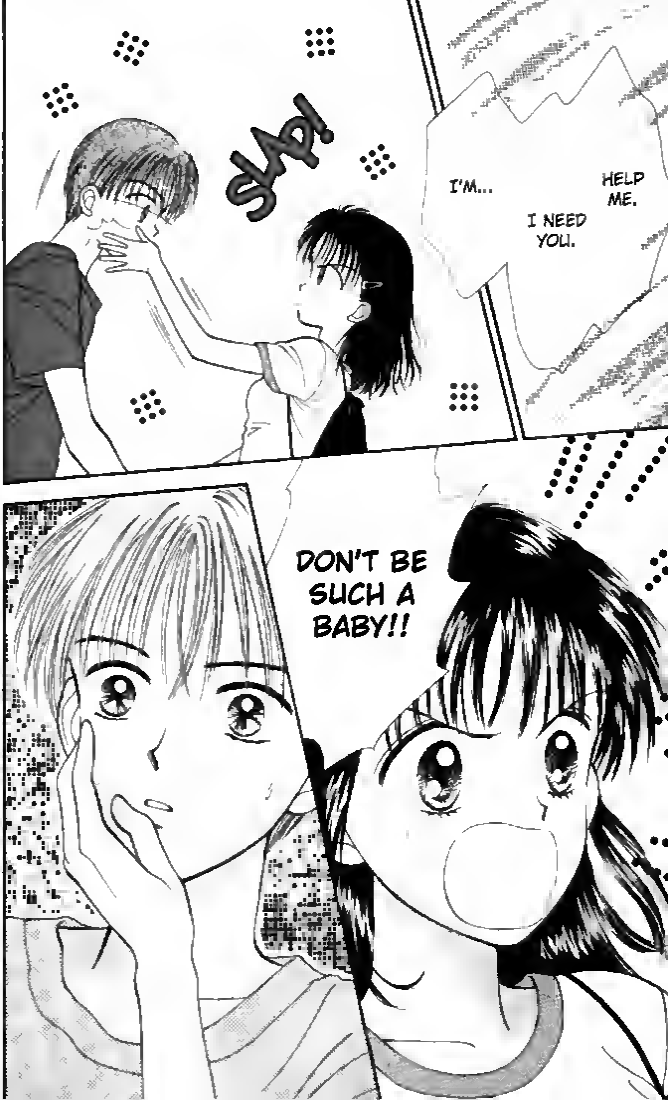
NN.....
AH.
I...
YOW!
I UNDERSTAND. I'LL RETURN IT! I'LL RETURN IT!
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
SO DON'T CRY, 'KAY! I'LL GET IT RIGHT NOW!

THE BRACELET THAT I GOT FROM YUU.
MY TREA-SURE.
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE
I'M GLAD.
I'M SO GLAD I FOUND IT!

AREN'T YOU GOING TO ASK WHY I WAS HIDING IT?
"HE'S INTERESTED IN YOU!"
IF I COULD JUST GET YOU TO RETURN THIS, THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER.
BUT...
NEVER TELL A LIE,
OR SPEAK NONSENSE TO YUU AND ME AGAIN!
NEVER!
LOVABLE

WAIT!
GOOD-BYE...
I LOVE YOU.
THAT'S WHY I WAS HIDING IT.
I'M SORRY.

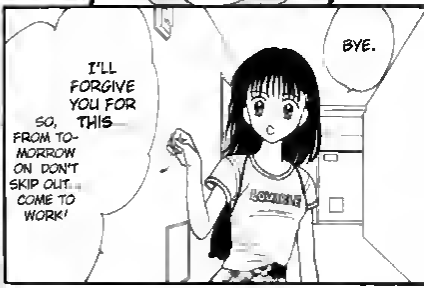
BUT, BEING ALONE WAS HARD AND UNBEARABLE.
I..
I KNOW THAT I'M RUNNING AWAY.
ACTUALLY, I ALREADY KNOW WHAT I MUST DO.
I FEEL LIKE I CAN START OVER AGAIN.
AND SO...
BUT IF YOU'RE THERE BESIDE ME..
...THEN I FEEL LIKE GOING FOR IT ONCE MORE.
...STAY BESIDE ME...
I LOVE YOU!!
THAT MAKES ME FEEL HAPPY, BUT..
...TO ME, YUU IS..

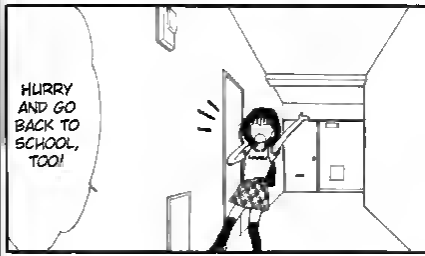

SLAP!
I'M...
HELP ME.
I NEED YOU.
DON'T BE SUCH A BABY!!

IF I STAYED BESIDE YOU... THAT'S NO GOOD.
YOU HAVE TO GET BACK ON YOUR FEET BY YOURSELF!!
.....
BUT I'M...
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. EVEN IF YOU'RE ALONE
YOU CAN DO IT, KEI-KUN
BECAUSE YOU REALLY LIKE IT, RIGHT? PLAYING THE PIANO.
ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

YOU RESTED A BIT AND WE'RE REFRESHED
I'M SURE YOU CAN DO YOUR BEST!
LET ME HEAR IT AGAIN, 'KAY.
YOUR PIANO PLAYING, KEI-KUN!

ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE


BYE.
I'LL FORGIVE YOU FOR THIS...
SO, FROM TOMORROW ON DON'T SKIP OUT... COME TO WORK!


HURRY AND GO BACK TO SCHOOL, TOO!

FREE TALK ⓜ

Another Marmalade item I'd like to recommend is the "Fall in Love and Be in Good Spirits Memo." This is the 2nd rocket "Memo of Love's Youth," and I wonder what I should say about it...? It gives out advice on love, and incantations, and fortunes, and lots of information for girls who fall in love, and this memo can also be enjoyed as an exchange diary. On top of that, how lucky I am to have the CD!! This CD is a lot of fun. It doesn't just include the theme song and insert song (Moment), but it's full of various messages you can listen to from Miki (the voice is Kouda-san's, of course) and Yuu (Okiayu-san, of course). The ones that were especially amusing were by Yuu, "You're cute today, too..." and "You're beautiful... Is there any love equal to ours now?" and "It would be nice if we could meet in our dreams, too, hm. Good night." and. I listened to it at home and I really really enjoyed it. According to a story by the producer, it looked like even Okiayu-san was feeling self-conscious when they were recording. Sure enough, huh. Indeed. (^x^)
Those who are fans of Kouda-san and Okiayu-san, it probably doesn't even check off as a toy, but I definitely think you should listen to this

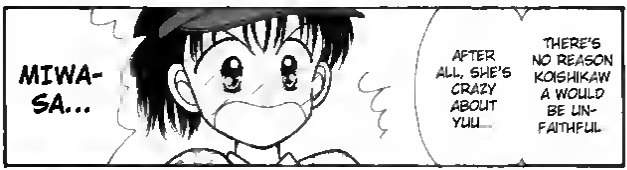
♫
I WONDER WHAT SORT OF TRICK I SHOULD PLAY NEXT TIME.
IT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS, HUH.
THE LOOK ON MIKI-SAN'S FACE BACK THEN!
TEE HEE!
You're heavy
HEY, SUZU. DON'T LEAN ON ME.

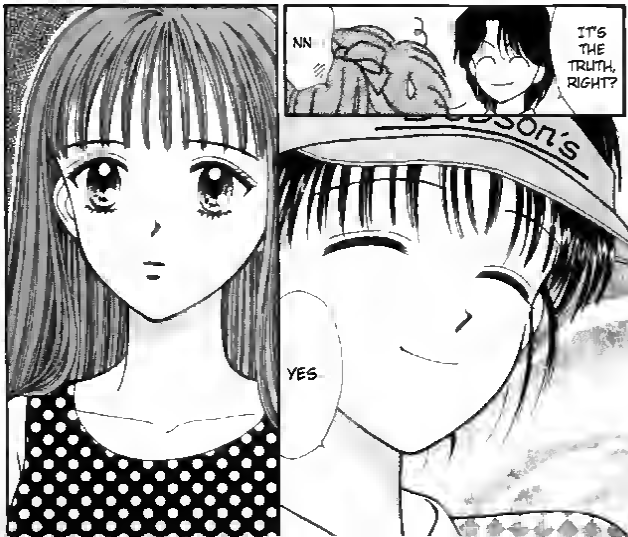
HUH?
BUT TAKE IT EASY
INSTEAD
POOR ONIICHAN...
YOUR ONE-SIDED LOVE HAS BEEN PUT TO REST BY MEIKO-SAN
HUG!
Y'KNOW, MEIKO-SAN, LIKE,
WILL SOON BE HITCHED UP WITH SOMEONE WHOM SHE'S BEEN THINKING OF A-A-ALL ALONG
...BUT NO THANKS!!
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN, "MY ONE-SIDED LOVE HAS BEEN PUT TO REST"...?
OHH, THANKS...
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO LOTS OF CUTE FELLOW MODELS WHO I THINK LOOK GOOD WITH YOU, ONIICHAN!
WITH... NAMURA?
HUH?

MEIKO-SAN WAS IN LOVE WITH YUU-SENSEI ALL ALONG
AND SO SUZU...
NAMURA ?
WHO'S THAT? NOT HIM
OOPS.
....
"AND SO SUZU"..
..DID WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU DO?
Bobsons

I'M SORRY
MISERY
WE'RE REALLY SORRY FOR HER STRANGE BEHAVIOR
AH, NO...
IT SEEMS IT WAS SOME SORTA STRANGE MISUNDERSTANDING.
THAT AKIZUKI LIKES YUU, AND THAT YOU'RE BEING UNFAITHFUL, KOISHIKAWA.
HUHHH!?
BUT! I SAW!
MIKI-SAN WAS IN THE STORE, HUGGING THE GUY AT WORK...
WHA-A-AT!?
THAT CAN'T BE...
AH!

SEE?
I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
FAINTED !?
MAYBE YOU SAW THAT AND...
I FAINTED AND I HAD GOT HIM TO HOLD ME UP...
COME TO THINK OF IT, THE OTHER DAY...


MIWA-SA...
AFTER ALL, SHE'S CRAZY ABOUT YUU...
THERE'S NO REASON KOISHIKAW A WOULD BE UN-FAITHFUL


NN
IT'S THE TRUTH, RIGHT?
YES

FREE TALK 12

This is a continuation of my talk on goods, but the gingham bag, wallet and watch that I wrote about in volume 4 have somehow seemed to have turned into dream items. I wonder if it's because character's faces weren't on them. The samples were cute, though. But, in place of those, sundry items such as laminated pouches, bags and purses... of which 3-toushin-sized versions of Miki and Yuu were fashionably designed have appeared. They're awfully cute, so please try and look for them in stores, kay? I think I'll use them, too.

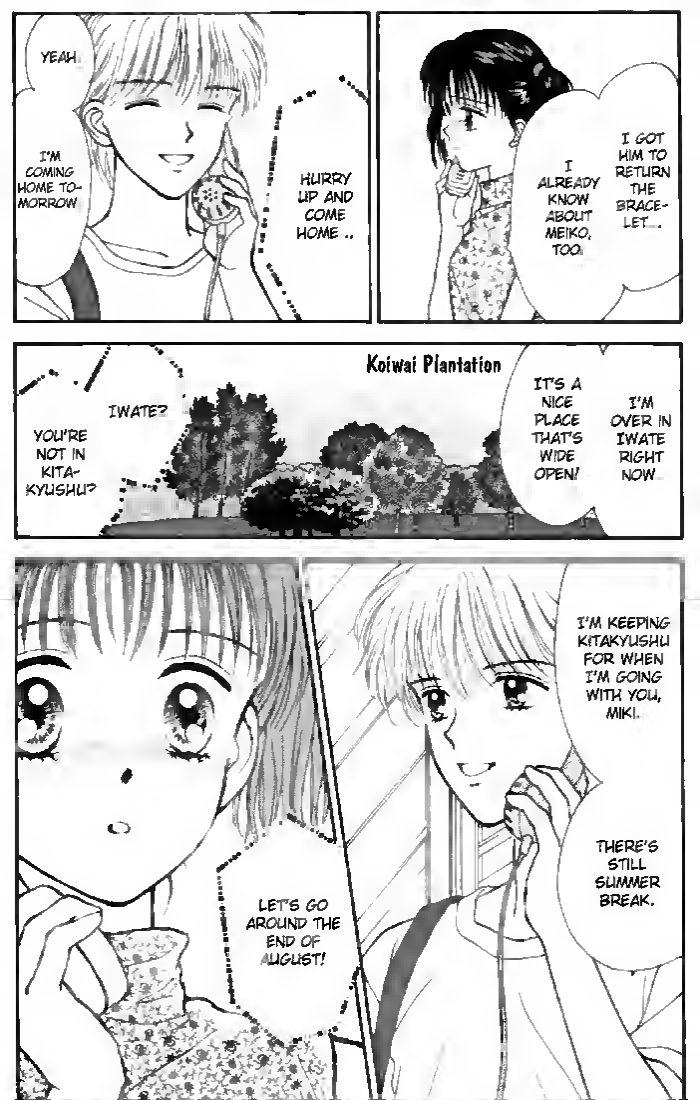
Something like this

For the rest, y'know, I recommend the nail polish set. The motorized "nail shiner" is nice, but so is the tsunpika compact, too.

CLA-A-NG
WHA-A-AT!?
IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE. WE GOT IN A FIGHT RIGHT AFTER THAT, YUU WENT OFF ON A TRIP...
DON'T TAKE WHAT SHE SAYS AT FACE-VALUE AND FIGHT WITH YUU.
AND SO THEREFORE,
AH...!
NO, UHH...

YUU...
WHERE ARE YOU AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIGHT NOW?
WITHOUT YUU, THE MAIN PERSON, I CAN'T EVEN TRY TO MAKE UP WITH HIM.
I WANT TO SEE YOU
AHH- AHHH..
TRRRR
AH, MIKI?
IT'S ME.
ARE YOU IN A BETTER MOOD?
CLACK
TRRR
TRRR...
YES?

Flop
TALKING AS THOUGH NOTHING HAD HAPPENED..
IT'S THE USUAL YUU.
YUU!!
WHA...
WHAT?
IT'S THE USUAL YUU..!
THAT'S CRUEL.
ACTUALLY LEAVING ME BEHIND.
I WAS GOING TO COOL OFF A BIT..
BACK THEN I WAS JEALOUS AND SHOUTED AT YOU, AND I WAS DISGRACEFUL..
I'M SORRY...


YEAH.
I'M COMING HOME TO-MORROW.
HURRY UP AND COME HOME ..
I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT MEIKO, TOO.
I GOT HIM TO RETURN THE BRACE-LET...
Koiwai Plantation
YOU'RE NOT IN KITA-KYUSHU?
IWATE?
IT'S A NICE PLACE THAT'S WIDE OPEN!
I'M OVER IN IWATE RIGHT NOW.
LET'S GO AROUND THE END OF AUGUST!
I'M KEEPING KITAKYUSHU FOR WHEN I'M GOING WITH YOU, MIKI.
THERE'S STILL SUMMER BREAK.

SAY, TOMOR-ROW...
CALL ME BEFORE YOU GET ON THE BULLET TRAIN...
AND I'LL GO PICK YOU UP AT THE STATION!
OKAY...!
MIKI!

YUU.

WELCOME BACK.
I WAS WAITING!

I'M HOME.

YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO GO AFTER ALL, HUH... ON THE TRIP...
SULLEN
BUT...

IF ONLY YOU HADN'T GONE ON THAT IWATE TRIP...
WHEN YOU WENT TO IWATE, YOU SUDDENLY TOOK 5 DAYS OFF, TOO. SO YOU WERE TOLD YOU COULDN'T ANYMORE, WEREN'T YOU.
GRUMPLE GRUMPLE GRUMPLE
THAT'S WHY I SAID I'M SORRY-Y-Y

I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY THAT ANY-MORE
I'M SORRY I'M TO BLAME
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. MY BOSS DIDN'T GIVE ME A BREAK FROM WORK.

WELL, IT'S OKAY.
TAKE ME FOR SURE DURING WINTER BREAK, OKAY?
OKAY.
BUT... AKIZUKI IS PRETTY LATE IN GETTING BACK, HUH.
CLASS IS GONNA BEGIN!
YEAH... WHAT COULD IT BE? TO BE CALLED TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE...

FEELING DIZZY
DUNNO
I WONDER IF IT'S ABOUT NATCHAN.
UH-HUH...
AH.
MEIKO ?
YOUR FACE IS SORTA RED
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MEIKO!
THE TEACHER... WHAT DID HE SAY?
SPECIAL MORNING NEWS BULLETIN!
CLICK!
IT'S ULTRA-BIG NEWS!!
UMM, MIKI...
ACTU-ALLY...

BUZZ...!
3-B'S AKIZUKI MEIKO-SAN'S STORY RECEIVED THE ASAHI LITERARY AWARD! IT'S THE BIRTH OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST STUDENT WRITER!
IT'S A WONDERFUL, HEART-STIRRING FEAT!!
OH.
OH NO.
WHERE DID THEY GET THAT INFORMATION FROM?
HUSTLE AND BUSTLE
MEI-KO!
MEIKO, IS IT TRUE!?
A STORY?
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOU SPECIALIZE IN REVIEWS, MEIKO...
I WAS EN-COURAGED BY MIWA-SAN... THAT WAS MY FIRST TRY.
I JUST WANTED MY WORK TO BE REVIEWED, SO THAT'S WHY I ENTERED! TO THINK I WON A LITERARY AWARD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.

MEIKO'S STORY, "CITY OF WINTRY DECLINE," BEING AN ACCOUNT OF THE SIBLING AFFECTION BETWEEN A JUNIOR HIGH BOY AND HIS OLDER SISTER...

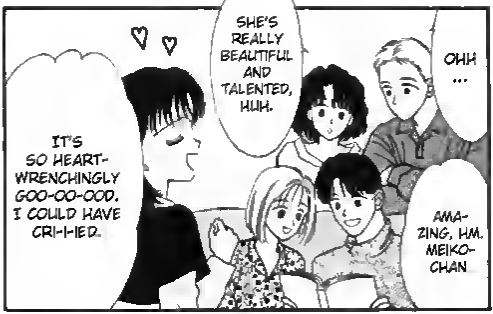
...WAS HIGHLY PRAISED BY THE LITERARY CRITICS WHO SAID, "IT HAS THE FRESH FEEL OF PROFUSE EXPRESSIVE STRENGTH AND DETAILED CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN ONLY COME FROM A TEEN WRITER."

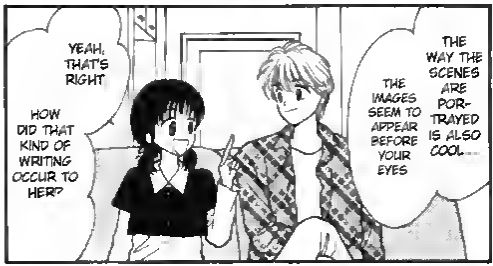
BECAUSE OF THE AGGRESSIVE NEWS REPORTING BY THE MASS MEDIA, WHO WERE KEEPING THEIR EYE ON "THE BIRTH OF THE BEAUTIFUL HIGH SCHOOL WRITER," THE CAMPUS WAS IN TURMOIL FOR QUITE SOME TIME.

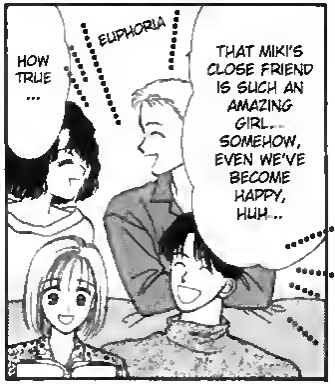
MEIKO, WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO STAND OUT TOO MUCH, TURNED DOWN NEARLY ALL INTERVIEWS, BUT EVEN SO, PHOTOS OF MEIKO'S BEAUTIFUL FACE WERE PUT ON DISPLAY IN A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES.

FREE TALK⑬

In March, the "Marmalade" movie will be presented to the public. It's in a triple-header with "DragonBall Z" and "Slam Dunk," and the main attractions are the 2 productions of Jump, so it's short a little under 30 minutes... but it's in wide screen format, and since it appears it's being kindly done by Magoshi-san, the film producer, I think the art will be very beautiful, and I'm very much looking forward to it. Everyone, definitely go and see it, please! (By the way, I hear that the story is about Yuu seeing Miki by chance before the Matsuuras and Koishikawas dine together for the first time at the restaurant.) On top of that, for "Marmalade," there are lots of CDs appearing (4 at the present time. December '94), a story as well is out from Cobalt, and a CD book is coming out, too. Together with the original work, if I can get you to enjoy these, then I'll be so happy.


IT'S SO HEART-WRENCHINGLY GOO-OO-OOD. I COULD HAVE CRI-I-IED.
SHE'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED, HUH.
OHH ...
AMA-ZING, HM. MEIKO-CHAN

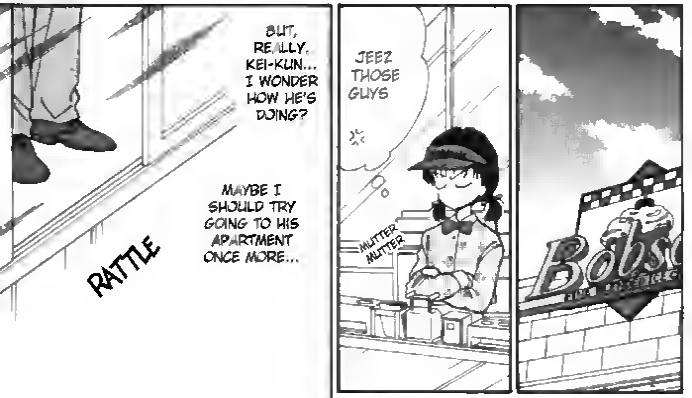

HOW DID THAT KIND OF WRITING OCCUR TO HER?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT
THE IMAGES SEEM TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR EYES
THE WAY THE SCENES ARE POR-TRAYED IS ALSO COOL...



MangaProject.cjb.net

THAT ODDBALL GUY AT WORK WHO FELL FOR YOU
THAT GUY?
YUP. I'M AN ODDBALL, TOO.
ODD-BALL!?
THEN, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU!?
HEY.
HOW IS THAT GUY DOING?
He finished my thought
DID HE RETURN TO HIS HOME LIKE HE SHOULD?
I DON'T KNOW.
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THEN.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE QUIT HIS JOB.
I WONDER IF I SPOKE TOO HARSHLY TO HIM..

JABBER JABBER
EH!? WHAT, WHAT!?
WHA..!
AH-AHHH, THIS IS NO GOOD
BREAK-ING THE HEART OF A YOUNGER MAN
How'd it come out like that!?
HEYYY!!
OHHHH...
SHE TOYED WITH HIM?
MIKI MADE A YOUNGER MAN CRY?


RATTLE
MAYBE I SHOULD TRY GOING TO HIS APARTMENT ONCE MORE...
BUT, REALLY, KEI-KUN... I WONDER HOW HE'S DOING?
MUTTER MUTTER
JEEZ THOSE GUYS

...!
Bobson's
KEI-KUN...
THAT'S YOUR UNIFORM?
DID YOU GO BACK TO SCHOOL?
YEAH.
Bobson's
I SEE...
I'M GLAD!
I'M SO GLAD!

FREE TALK (14)

Well, finally, on 1/25, I was able to have them publish the "Illustration Collection" that I've been longing for a-a-a-ll along. I'm *really* happy!! But, because the prep time was so short, it was awfully difficult. If I'm troubling them to have them publish it, then I wanted to spend more time on it and do a lot of things... But y'know, I'm happy just being able to have them make the beautiful book! The title of the illustration collection is simply "Marmalade Boy," and lots of "Handsome Girlfriend" illustrations were put in, too. The planning pages were a collection of rough sketches that I chose from within my croquis book (I wanted to put in lots more, but I regret that we didn't have the space.) and I commented on the work. In as positive a manner as possible (?) I focused my comments on the parts that I liked, but words and talk aren't enough, and although, later, when I looked at those pictures, my feelings had changed a bit from what I had commented, or turned completely about, I hope I can get you to enjoy it.

Continued in (15)

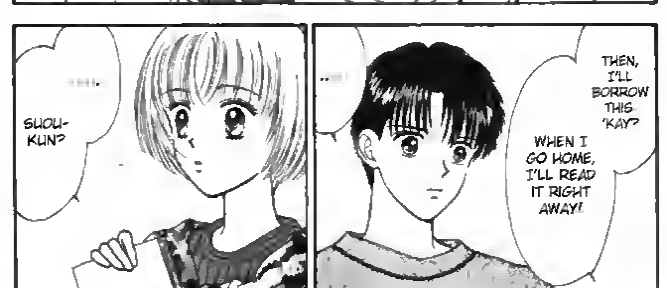
I'M HAVING LESSONS ON MY DAYS OFF, TOO
I WAS ABSENT FOR QUITE A WHILE, SO I'M REALLY OUT OF PRACTICE...
YOU HAVE SCHOOL?
OH? BUT EVEN THOUGH TODAY IS SUNDAY...
I SEE
IT'S HARD, AFTER ALL, HM
THE LAST TIME, I WAS TREATED JUST LIKE A KID BY YOU.
IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT I DECIDED TO GO BACK TO A LIFE OF PIANO PLAYING!
THAT WORKED PRETTY WELL
TO GET YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME ON EQUAL TERMS, I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO BE MORE RESOLVED.
Boosey's

THEREFORE...
I WON'T SULK LIKE A CHILD AND WILL TRY TO DO MY BEST ONCE MORE
THEN, WHEN I HAVE THE SELF-CONFIDENCE, BECOMING A MAN WHO CAN GET YOU TO CHOOSE HIM ..
I'LL ASK YOU OUT ONCE MORE.
BUT
YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE "EVEN THOUGH YOU TELL ME A THING LIKE THAT, I HAVE YUU," DON'T YOU!
THAT'S FINE. I UNDERSTAND.
BUT IT'S OKAY IF I JUST GO OFF AND THINK THIS WAY ON MY OWN, RIGHT!?

DO YOUR BEST ON THE PIANO, 'KAY
THANK YOU...
OKAY.
I'M ROOTING FOR YOU...!
I'M REALLY GLAD...
KEI-KUN... HE'S FINE NOW...

THE ASAHI LITERARY AWARD, HUH
HOW WONDERFULLY GIFTED AKIZUKI-SAN
MCT
HAM

HAVE YOU MET MEIKO?
MM. BRIEFLY, BACK AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL
YUU INTRODUCED HER TO ME AS MIKI'S CLOSE FRIEND
SHE'S AWFULLY BEAUTIFUL, HM
55


THEN, I'LL BORROW THIS 'KAY?
WHEN I GO HOME, I'LL READ IT RIGHT AWAY!
SUOU-KUN?

GLARE!
WHAT'S WRO...
NG?
SUZUKI-SAN!!
ALL ALONG... I'VE BEEN FAILING TO TELL YOU THIS...
BUT TODAY I DECIDED I'M GOING TO TELL IT TO YOU STRAIGHT.
I...
55

I WANT YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME!!
I LOVE YOU, SUZUKI-SAN!
I THOUGHT I WAS ALREADY GOING OUT WITH YOU...
I...
.....

EH!?
BECAUSE WE CALL EACH OTHER UP NEARLY EVERY DAY, AND WE DATE LIKE THIS AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK, RIGHT?
DON'T YOU USUALLY CALL SOMETHING LIKE THIS "GOING OUT"?
I MEAN... BUT...
AS FRIENDS... IS WHAT THAT IS...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD CLEARLY THAT YOU LIKE ME, HM.
BLUSH!
BUT, SUOU-KUN, IT SHOWS IN YOUR BEHAVIOR.
I...

...LIKE YOU, TOO, SHOU-KUN.
A LOT.
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, SHOU-KUN...
I GET WARM RIGHT HERE.
SUZUKI-SAN...
55

I CAN FEEL AT EASE
CALM.
THE FEELING THAT I CAN BE A SWEET AND GENTLE GIRL..
RIGHT NOW..
YOU'RE INCREDIBLY DEAR TO ME, SUOU-KUN.
FROM NOW ON..
I THINK I WANT TO BE TOGETHER WITH YOU ALL THE..

I DON'T HAVE THE INTENSE HEART-THROB-BING LIKE WHEN I WAS IN LOVE WITH YUU.

THERE ISN'T THE EXCITE-MENT, EITHER.

BUT THERE A' SO ISN'T THE ANXIETY AND DESPAIR AND THE TEARS.

TIME...

FREE TALK ⑮

There are people who tell me that "I look forward to the title page drawings," but since I'm missing something not definitely knowing which drawings are the ones I've been able to get everyone to like, I'd like to hear a lot of your thoughts! Then, a poster in a binder will be included, but this was specially drawn on both sides On the front side is a double-shot of Yuu and Gunta. This one's, like... The editor of Cobalt gave me a "Marmalade" doujinshi, that he said he came across at Comic Market where he went as part of his job, but that one was a Yuu and Gunta "gay" one So, thinking (I see... There are people out there, too, who are enjoying it in that sort of way, huh...), it's not the case where I'm doing it for the sake of people like that, but, for some reason, I ended up drawing it I don't have much interest in homosexual people, but since I clearly understood from that book they produced how much they liked "Marmalade," I was happy and read it with joy If it's produced again, I'd like to give them something And on the poster's reverse side is Suzu 1500 yen! A bit expensive? But by all means, please buy one, kay?!!!!

Well, please wait for volume 7

AH.
SOMETIMES, YOU ARE STRANGELY PUSHY HM, SHOU-KUN!
THAT WAS MY FIRST KISS... I'D WANTED TO HAVE IT IN A SPOT THAT WAS A BIT MORE ROMANTIC...
SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN...
EH? YOUR FIRST...? THEN, YOU DIDN'T KISS...
MAT-SUURA.

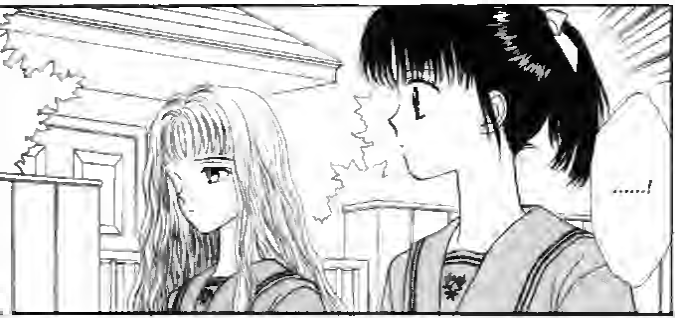
OHHHH, I SEE-E-EE! I ASSUMED...
I MEAN, IT'S NOT THAT I MIND AT ALL ABOUT YOUR PAST, BUT...
BUT I'M HAPPY, AFTER ALL!
URKK!
.....
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SHOU-KUN?
IS IT YOUR FIRST TIME?
AH, UM.
I...
IT'S NOT, HUH!?
NUMBER?
...
ONCE BEFORE, WITH MIKI...
WHA-A-AT!?
RATTLE!!
I...! I'M SORRY !!

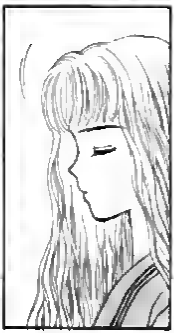
I'M SORRY, BUT BACK THEN I WAS...
THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR. THAT'S IN THE PAST...
BUT, I FIND IT RATHER TERRIBLY UNAMUSING !!
SU...! SUZUKI-SAN!
YANK!
CHU!

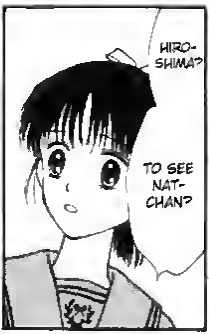
NOW, IT'S ONCE WITH MIKI-SAN, TWICE WITH ME
I'M AHEAD IN THE COUNT, SO THAT MAKES IT ALL RIGHT!
SMILE!
.....

I WON'T EVER.
DON'T EVER KISS ANOTHER GIRL, 'KAY?
ONLY WITH YOU, ARIMI...

THE PROBLEM KNOWN AS ROKUTANDA-KUN, THE COUSIN, STILL REMAINS
AH HA HA!
BUT, WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO, HM?
SO, THINGS WENT WELL FOR GINTA WITH ARIMI-SAN.
I SEE THAT'S GREAT
.....
I WONDER WHAT'S UP WITH MEIKO?
I WONDER
...IF A NEW LOVE HAS BEGUN..
SHE SAID SHE WROTE THE STORY ON THE ADVICE OF MIWA-SAN...
LITTLE BY LITTLE, IT SEEMS SHE'S BEGINNING TO OPEN HER HEART TO MIWA-SAN.







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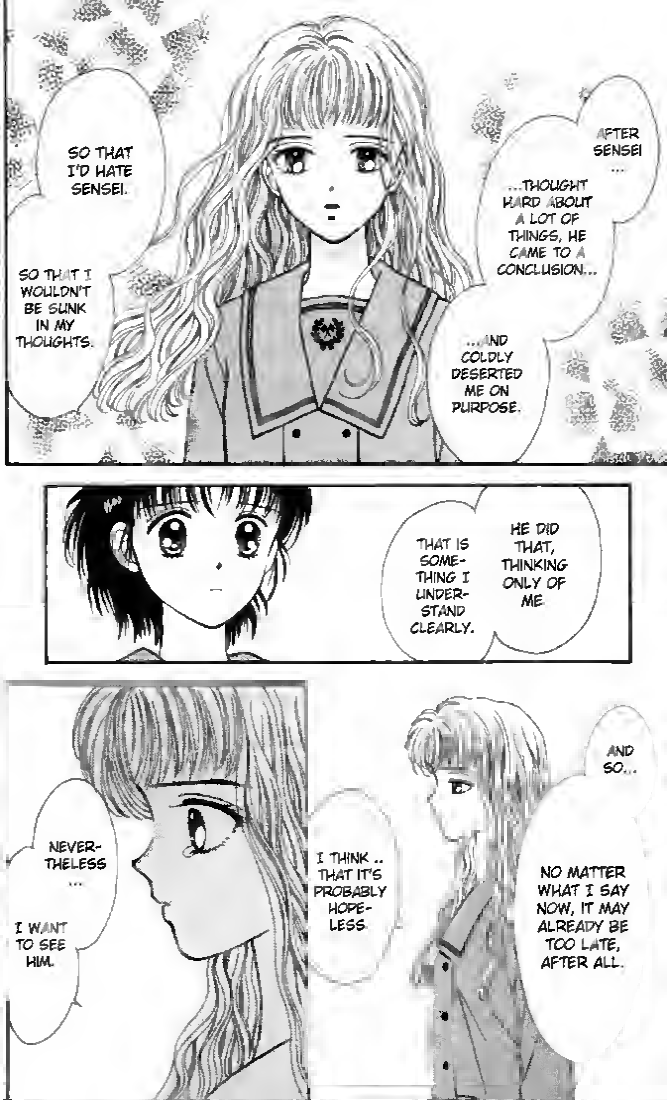
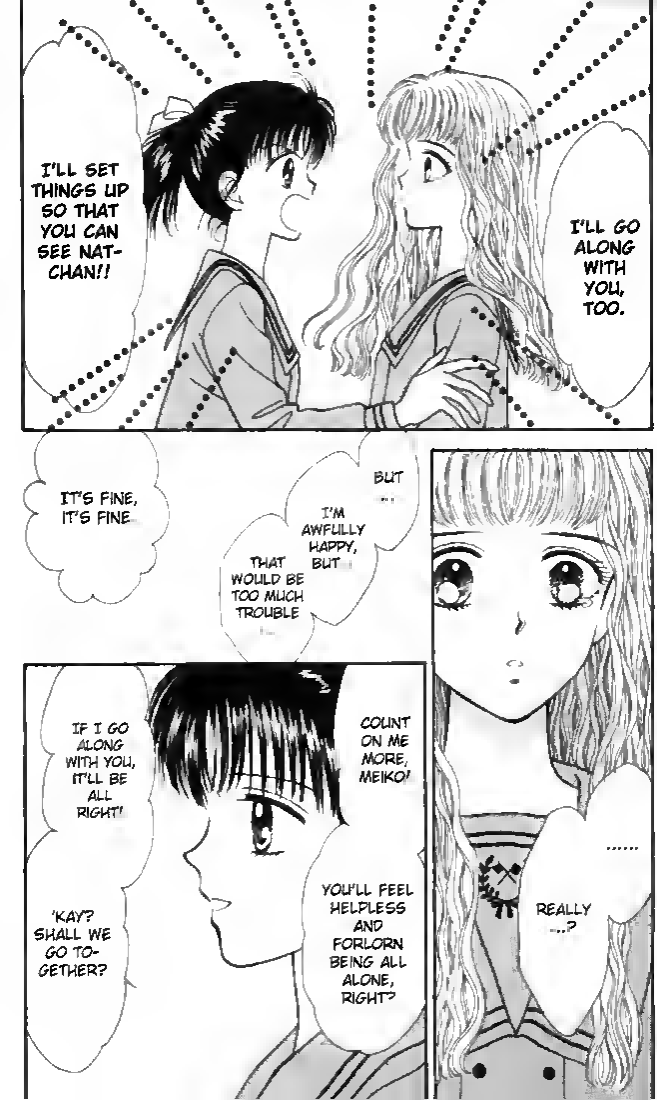
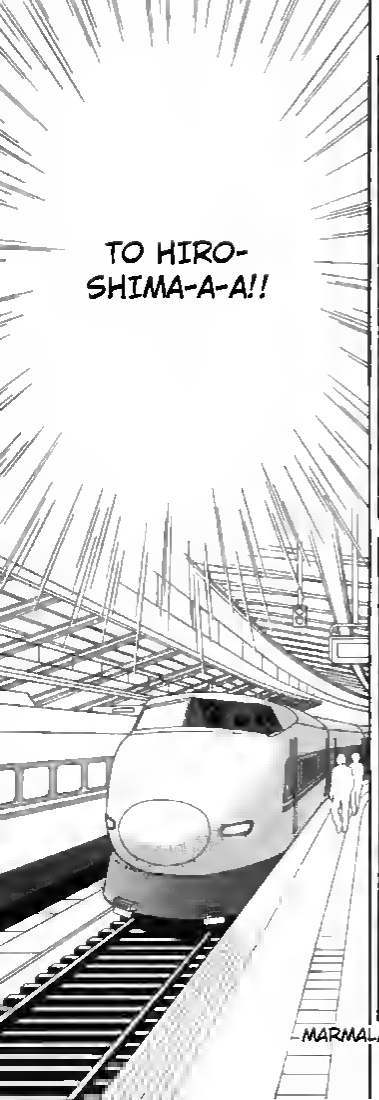
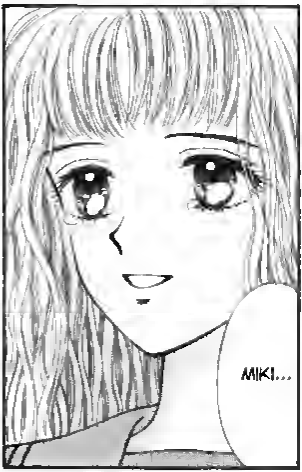

SO THAT I'D HATE SENSEI.
SO THAT I WOULDN'T BE SUNK IN MY THOUGHTS.
AFTER SENSEI ...
...THOUGHT HARD ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS, HE CAME TO A CONCLUSION...
...AND COLDLY DESERTED ME ON PURPOSE.
HE DID THAT, THINKING ONLY OF ME.
THAT IS SOME-THING I UNDER-STAND CLEARLY.
AND SO...
NO MATTER WHAT I SAY NOW, IT MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE, AFTER ALL.
I THINK .. THAT IT'S PROBABLY HOPE-LESS.
NEVER-THELESS ...
I WANT TO SEE HIM.

MEI. ....
NO MATTER WHAT..
I WANT TO SEE HIM AND SPEAK TO HIM ONCE MO-O-ORE!!
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S GO TO HIRO-SHIMA!


I'LL SET THINGS UP SO THAT YOU CAN SEE NAT-CHAN!!
I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU, TOO.
IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE
THAT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE
I'M AWFULLY HAPPY, BUT
BUT ...
IF I GO ALONG WITH YOU, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
'KAY? SHALL WE GO TO-GETHER?
COUNT ON ME MORE, MEIKO!
YOU'LL FEEL HELPLESS AND FORLORN BEING ALL ALONE, RIGHT?
.....
REALLY ...?


TO HIRO-
SHIMA-A-A!!


MIKI...

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6

吉住　渉

RIBON MASCOT COMICS

ママレード・ボーイ【6】

吉住　渉

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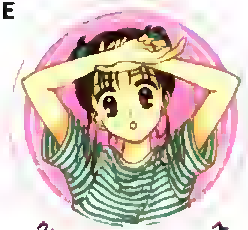

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